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# Here and there in Eramosa

by Frank Day

HERE AND THERE IN ERAMOSA . . . . BY FRANK DAY

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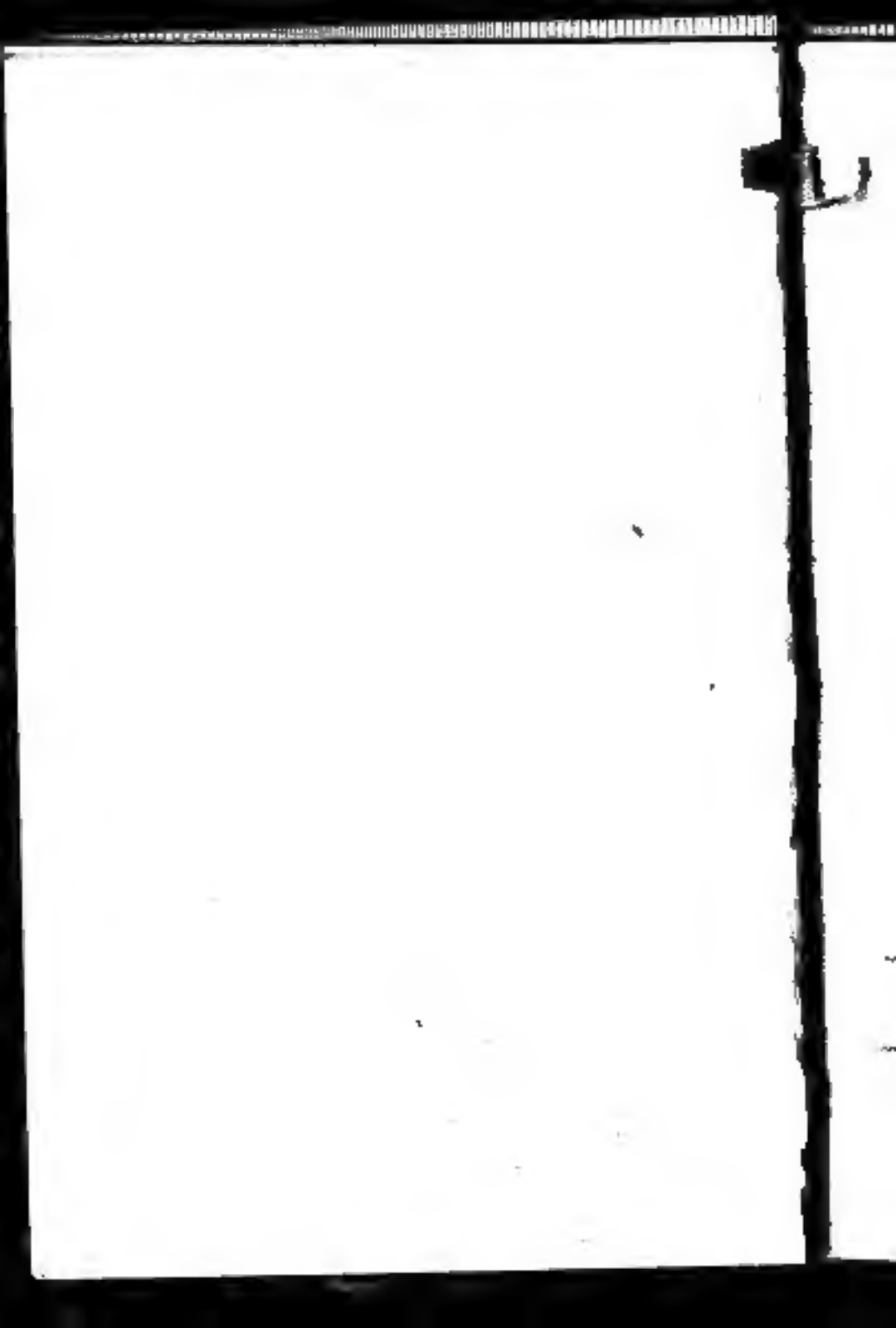

# Here and There in Eramosa

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE EARLY YEARS, AND OF THE PEOPLE AND EVENTS CONTRIBUTING TO THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWNSHIP

BY

Frank Day

**ROCKWOOD**
**May, 1959**

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## AN INTRODUCTION

By Dr. Hugh Templin

●

Canada is a young country, by European standards, but the older parts of Ontario were settled well over a century ago. No pioneers are alive to-day and the second generation has passed from the scene. No longer can history be gathered at first hand.

When that history is lost, it can never be recovered. Great credit is due those enthusiastic historians, such as Frank Day, who are willing to search through old records and whose hobby is to gather all available informatan, piece it together, sort it over, and choose the essential portions.

The only way to preserve such early history, is to have it printed. Enough copies become available then so that there is no danger that the material will be lost. Future historians will always be able to refer to what Mr. Day has written.

He is admirably qualified for this work. He has a liking for the history of the township. As Postmaster and Township Clerk, he knows the people, their farms, and their family history. He has gathered the material over many years, and has made sure it is accurate and complete. Eramosa Township will always be indebted to Frank Day for what he has done, and his work will be appreciated over a much wider area.

Hugh Templin

Fergus, Ont., April 18th, 1953.

Sincere thanks are tendered to the many kind friends who have made possible this collection of Eramosa items. Some names will be inadvertently omitted and for these omissions I tender apology; the assistance is deeply appreciated though the name may not be mentioned.

First, the many valuable items submitted by Miss Ada Currie and her cordial co-operation, are an integral part of the work. Other valuable assistance was rendered by Dr. A. E. Byerly, Dr. Hugh Templin, Mrs. Gregory A. Franck, Mr. Reuben Butchart, Mrs. Robert L. Bingham, Mr. W. Melvin Grant, Rev. E. A. Brooks, Rev. Earle G. Dale, Rev. J. P. McLeod, Miss Mabel Burkholder, The Wellington County Atlas, Lovell's Directories, The Guelph Mercury, the works of Joshua Norrish, and the dozens of church and school secretaries and township clerks who have recorded current affairs for nearly 130 years.

## CONTENTS


Foreword . . . . . 1

Historical Notes . . . . . 7

Municipal Government . . . . . 11

Historical Notes by Joshua Norrish . . . . . 15

Mental and Political Attitude of Early Settlers . . 19

Schools . . . . . 23

Early Statistics . . . . . 39

Early Deeds . . . . . 43

Church History . . . . . 47

Rockwood . . . . . 96

Everton . . . . . 120

Odds and Ends . . . . . 130

Family Histories . . . . . 138

Miscellaneous . . . . . 177


**Detailed Index on Page 195**

## ILLUSTRATIONS


The Cenotaph at Rockwood . . . . . b
Mill Farm . . . . . 2
George Day and Frank Day . . . . . 2
100th Township Council . . . . . 14
Rockwood Academy . . . . . 26
School No. 2 . . . . . 26
Pupils of S.S. No. 8 . . . . . 38
The Author and Family . . . . . 62
The Railway Viaduct . . . . . 110
John Rea . . . . . 174
Mrs. John Ramsay . . . . . 174


## MAPS


Eramosa in 1850 . . . . . 42
Rockwood . . . . . 98
Everton . . . . . 126
Eden Mills . . . . . 126
Eramosa in 1906 . . . . . 138
Central Section of Upper Canada . . . . . 194

# FOREWORD

It is nearly 130 years since the first settlers came to the Township of Eramosa and no concerted effort has been made to gather the many valuable records into one focal point. A history of Eramosa should be written by a lifelong resident, preferably someone with a good education and someone in constant contact with township, church, school and family affairs for a number of years.

I cannot meet the first two of these requirements, having come to Eramosa as an English immigrant of 20 in 1907. I had attended school from the age of three to the age of ten, when lack of health forced me to work for 10 years on my father's farm in Swavesey, Cambs., England, in order to acquire what was called a "constitution" in those days. Age 20 found me, with three other young villagers—Harry Beaumont, whose father had taught both my father and I in the village school; Harry Wells, the coal merchant's son; and Lawson Hopher, the tailor's son—talking of our desires for adventure. Australia, Canada, South Africa or New Zealand we had in mind. From old tombstones we could learn that all our forefathers had resided in the village for generations and few records of actual experience in other countries were available, so we determined to go and see.

When we decided to come to Canada, our relatives warned us of the bears, the cold that froze the cow's milk before it could reach the pail, and that the only jobs available were those of digging postholes for The Grand Trunk Railway on a diet of pork and beans. We were specially warned to beware of wild "American" women and urgently requested to keep in contact with local village girls. Our relatives had previously objected to some girls that we had been seen with, but now that we were going to Canada, the same girls were held up as particularly desirable prospective wives.

Four young men aged from 20 to 24, emigrating together from a village about the size of Rockwood, was quite an event; we received a grand send-off at a village party held in the school, being presented with various gifts. The committee in charge even arranged for a farewell telegram from our local M.P., Sir Edwin S. Montagu, afterwards Secretary of State for India. The telegram was dated "House of Commons London," and read "Best wishes for Swavesey in Canada".

Conditions in Canada appeared rather crude in some ways, but there were advantages not obtainable in the homeland. It was natural that youth should appreciate the absence of class distinction, and the popular idea that "Jack was as good as his master". Higher wages appeared attractive, until we learned that living costs, too, were higher. We found living conditions in the rural areas much below those in England. It appeared that the farmer, his sons and the hired man worked from daylight to dark in Canada, while in England they worked an orderly nine hour day except for some overtime in harvest.

Railway crossings, road conditions, recreational facilities, clothes, boots and many manufactured articles were well below the standards we had left. The English carpenter, bricklayer, cowman, shepherd, horsekeeper or butcher

was usually a specialist, performing the one task for a lifetime. The vastness and infancy of Canada demanded that every man in the rural areas take a hand at all these tasks; consequently, his chances of proficiency were lessened. Where an English carpenter would use a mortice and tenon, his son in Canada would us a four or five inch spike; where the father dug three feet for a foundation, his son dug 18 inches. Much of this could be expected in a new country and something of its very newness was appealing. The absence of many restrictions—Lights on bicycles and vehicles, poaching and hunting laws, trespass and other irritating strictures—was very welcome to young freedom loving Englishmen. After some months in Canada, some of us wrote home to say that we had not yet seen a uniformed policeman. We could see a squeeze coming in England between the aristocrats and the socialists; and as events have proved, we rightly judged that Canada would stand for middle-of-the-road orderly development.

June 18th, 1907, found me walking up the track from Acton to Crewson's Corners and up the townline of Erin and Eramosa, looking for a job. Those were the days when the Toronto "Globe" carried "Help Wanted" ads. with the addition—"No Englishman need apply". We were not altogether surprised at this attitude, for we well knew that many of our countrymen had been sentenced to transportation to Australia for misbehaviour. We had also noticed that while Canada was conducting such a strenuous campaign in Britain for immigrants, many of the magistrates were granting suspended sentences on condition that the offender would emigrate to Canada.

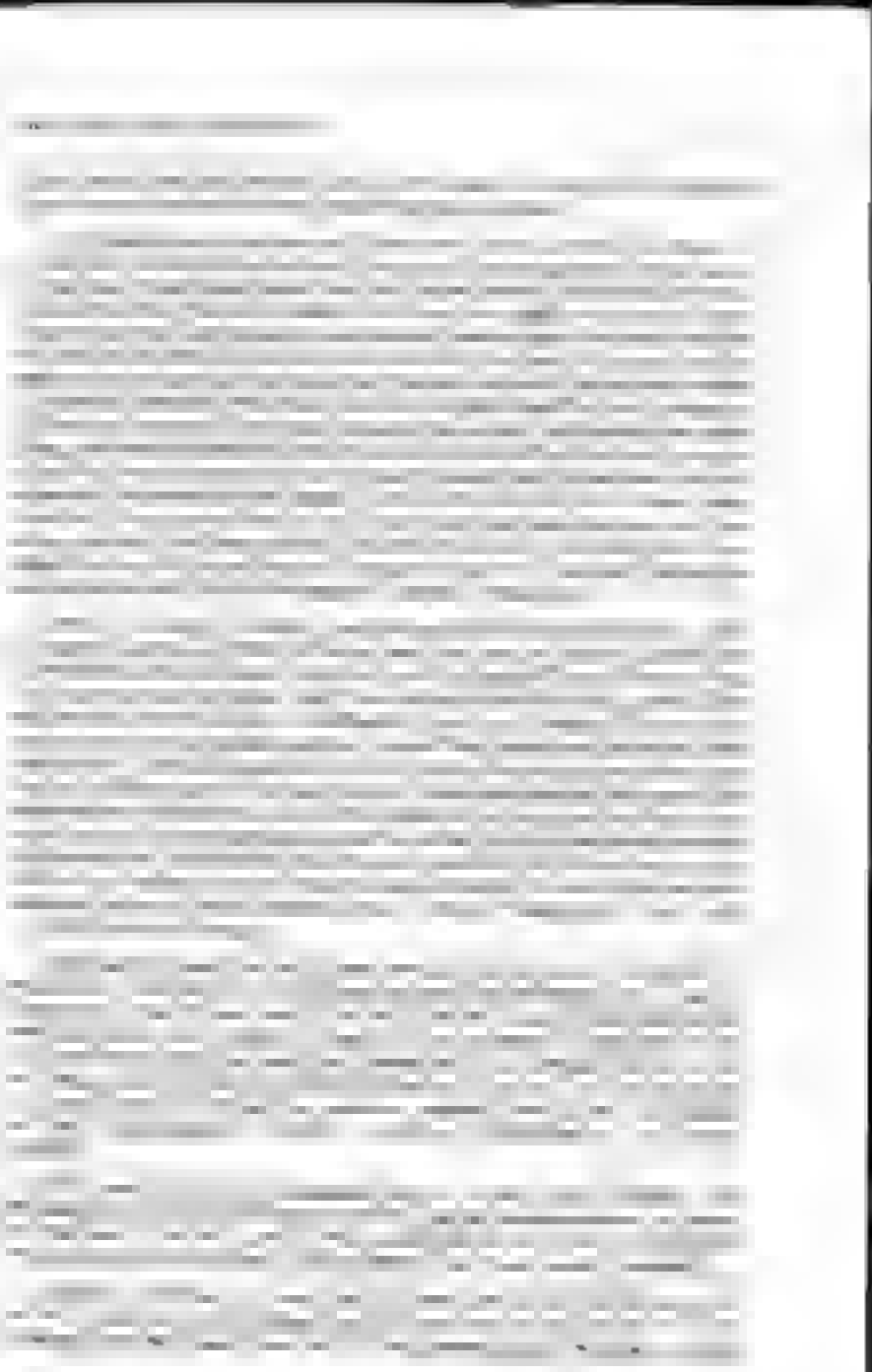
We had not committed any serious crimes; Beaumont and Wells were from Anglican and Tory families; Hepher and I were from Baptist and Liberal families. All of us belonged to the Cricket Club; all of us belonged to choirs, choral societies or musical societies. I was singing in the Temperance Society, the choir and two Choral Societies, one in the village each week during the winter, and one at St. Ives, three miles away, where Cromwell made his home and where I had seen his statue unveiled in the Market Place. Our little village of 900 was evenly divided politically; the Parish Council consisted of nine members. One year nine Liberals ran against nine Tories, and the Liberals all won, including my father, my grandfather and an uncle. The next year eight Tories were elected and my father was the only Liberal. They took their politics raw. When quite young, I was given the job of hauling voters to and from the poll on election day and I well remember the shame with which I confessed to my father at night, that I had unwittingly driven one man home that I later found out to be a Tory. At one Tory meeting, I remember entering with a group of young Liberals. A prominent Tory got the wind up and came to me with the request that we would not upset the meeting.

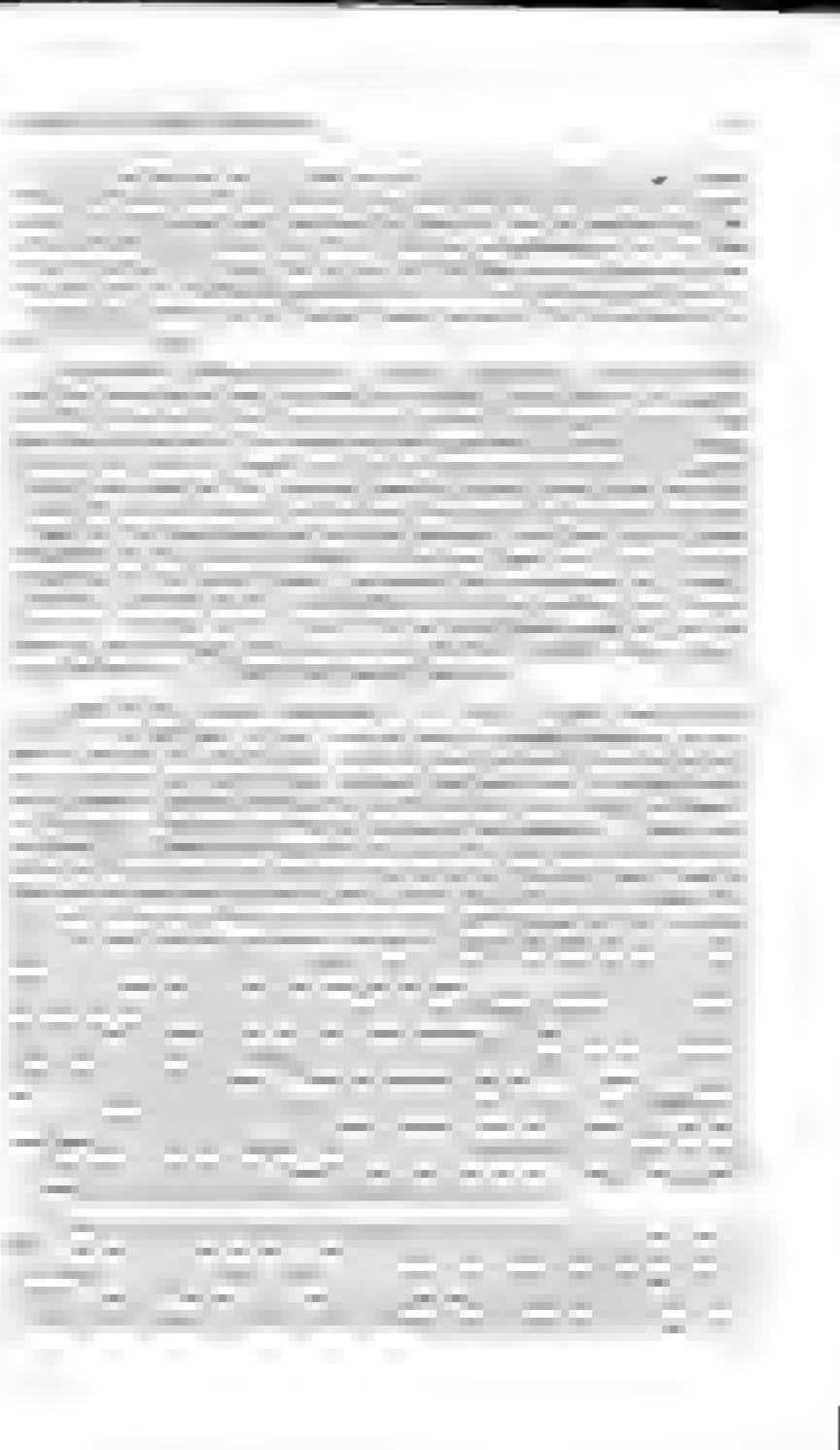
I had been guilty of poaching, riding a bicycle without lights and similar misbehaviour, but never caught; it seemed to be fun to match wits with the cops and gamekeepers. Sometimes while hunting, it was necessary to pass from some of my father's land through a game preserve to reach land belonging to an uncle or some other friend. We would usually crawl along a ditch or beside a hedge to do this. My parents allowed me a gun but not a hunting dog, so I had to make arrangements with a man who had one and who understood stalking a hare or a brace of partridge; he was supposed

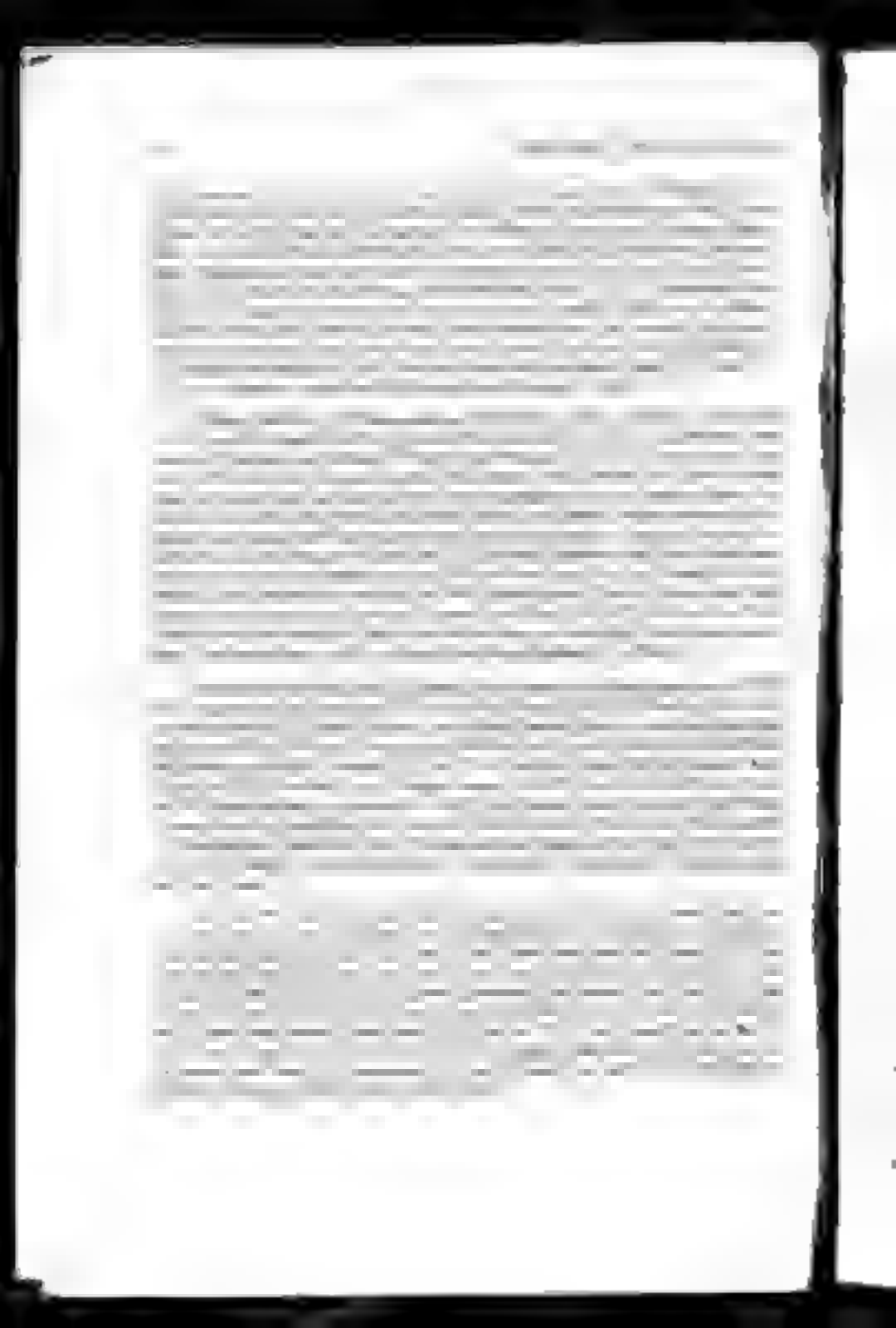
Mr. Frank Day, formerly of the 122nd Battalion, [illegible] and [illegible] Treasurer and Collector for the Township of Enniskillen since [illegible] has resigned.

His son Cpl. F. Day, recently discharged after Four years service with the Canadian Postal Corps, has been appointed to the vacant positions.

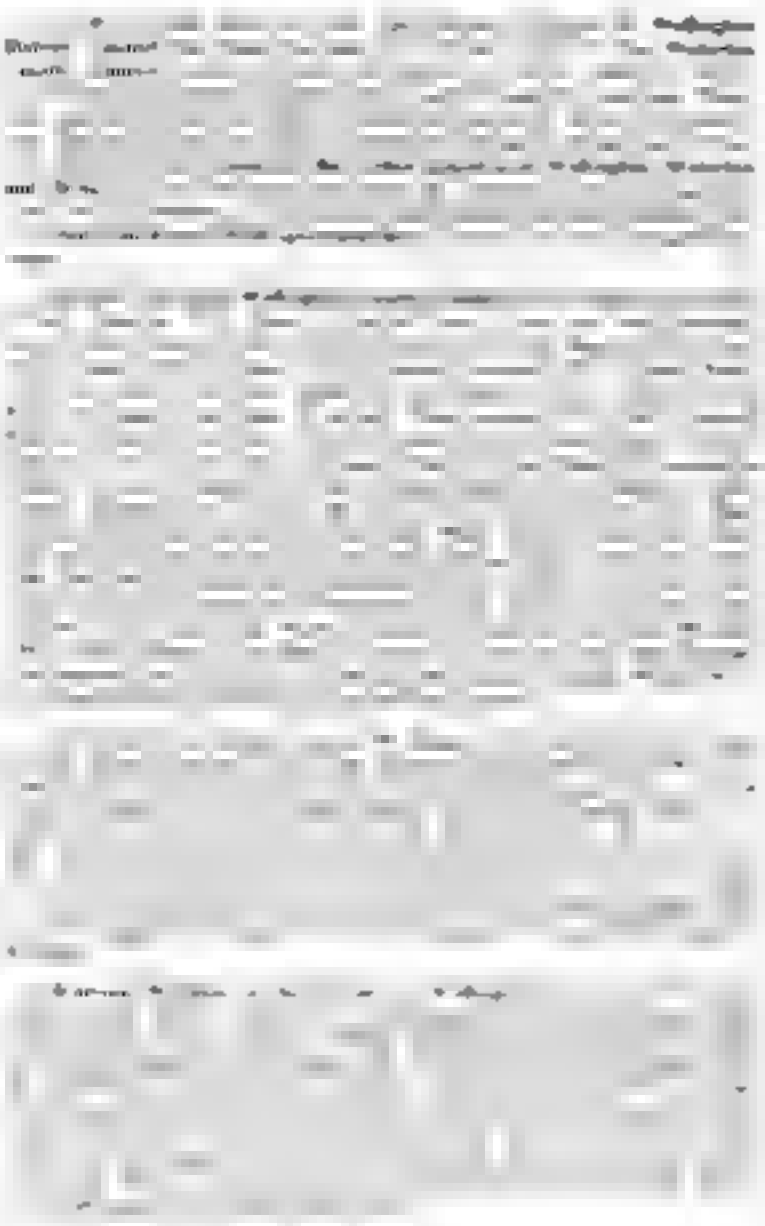
The Monitor, Watford, September [illegible]

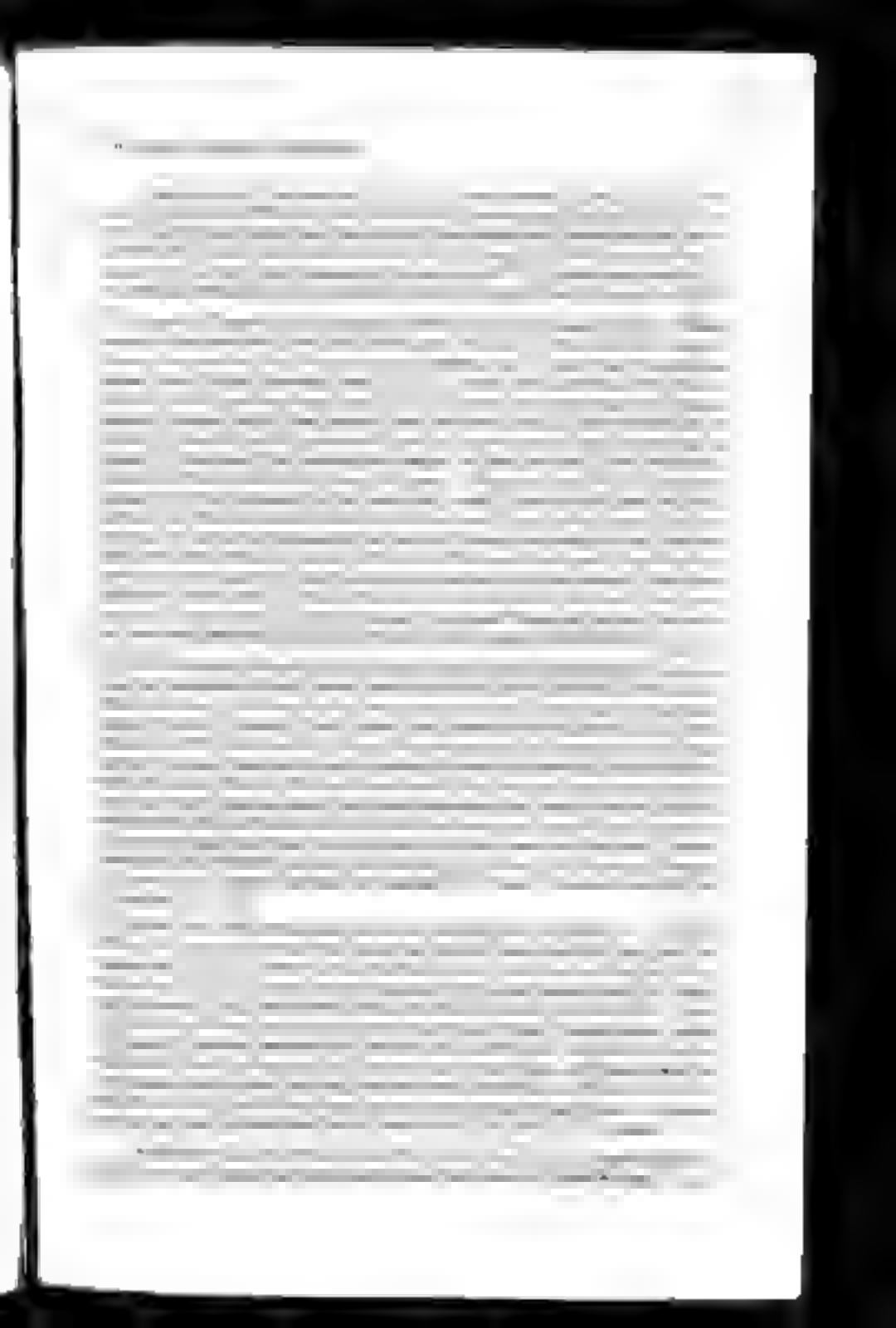


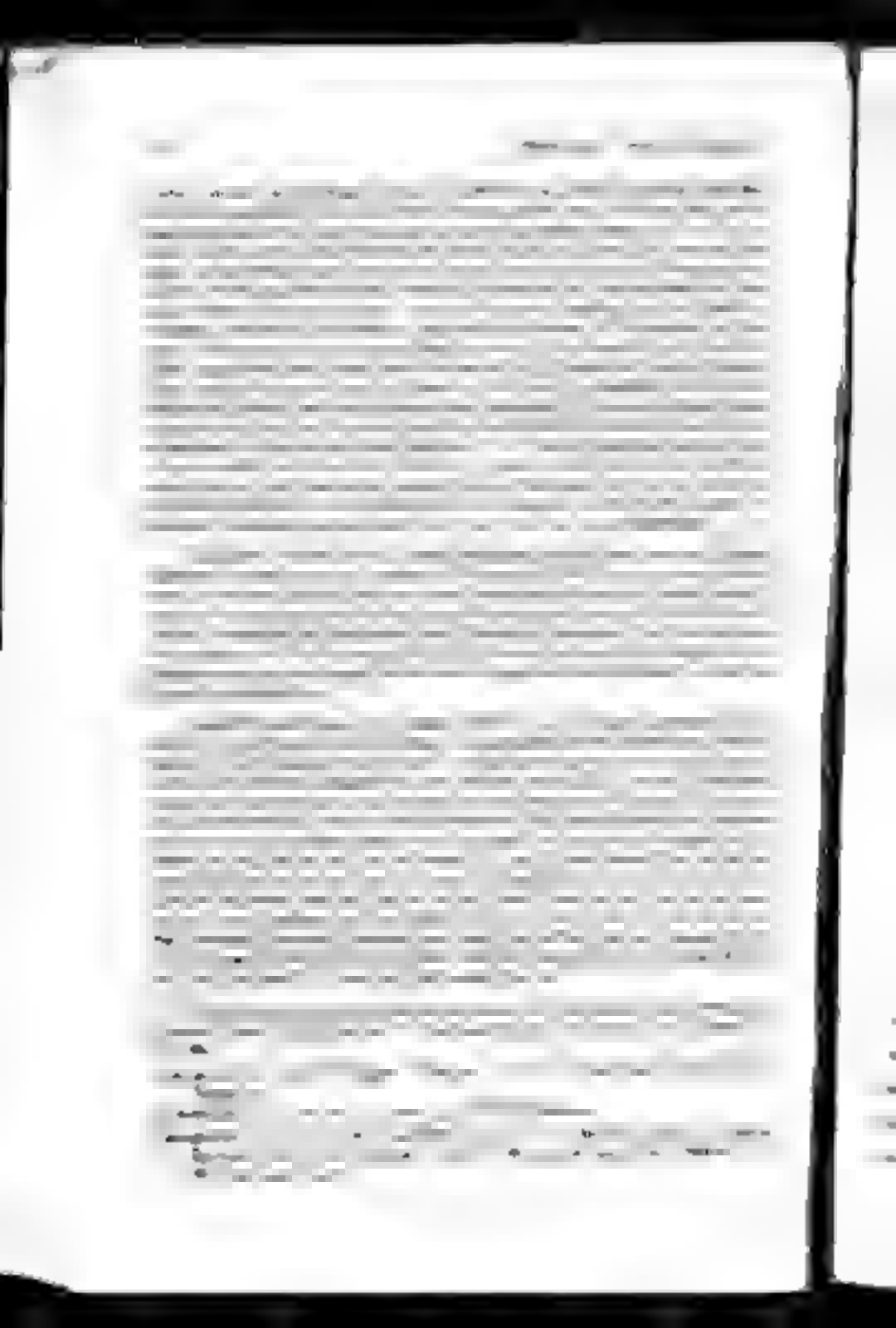




# HISTORICAL NOTES







Concession 4:—None

Concession 5:- Lot 2 Robert Fennes Lot 3 and 4. John Harris Lot 7 Alex Moore Lot 7 Thos. Forsyth Lot 25. Jonathon Oakes

Concession 6:- Lot 4 Wm McNabb and David Shultis Lot 25. Thos Cox

Concession 7 Lot 7 James Black. Lot 4 H and R Jackson.

## MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS FROM 1836 TO 1952

From 1836 to 849 the duties and operations of the Board of Commissioners included most of those now covered by the township council police village trustees, school boards and magistrate's courts.

1836 to 840- Chairman. David Kribbs. Peter Miller Joseph Wood William Everts, John Lowes

841 to 849—Chairman. John Harris George Armstrong, James Black. John Butchart James Loghrin.

County Councillor from Framosa.

1842—Thomas Armstrong

1843 to 845—William Armstrong.

1847 to 849—Donald Black

Township Councils.

1849—Reeve. Thomas Armstrong Councillors Adam Argo James Mitchell James Parkinson Donald Black.

851 -Reeve. Thomas Armstrong. Councillors John Duffield. Robert Royce. James Parkinson Donald Black.

852- -Reeve. Lazarus Parkinson. Councillors James Mitchell Henry Duffield James Loghrin, Samuel Ilsley

1853—Reeve Lazarus Parkinson Councillors: James Mitchell, Robert Royce James Loghrin Donald Black.

1854—Reeve Donald Black. Councillors: James Mitchell Robert Royce. John Duffield John McKerlie.

855- -Reeve, James Mitchell Councillors Lazarus Parkinson Robert Royce. John Duffield John McKerlie.

856—Reeve, Lazarus Parkinson Councillors Jonathan Tovell Robert Royce. William Horne. John McKerlie.

1857—Reeve Donald Black Councillors Jonathan Tovell. Robert Royce. John Duffield John McKerlie.

1858- -Reeve, Donald Black Dep Reeve. Lazarus Parkinson Councillors Robert Royce John Duffield John McKerlie.

859—Reeve. Donald Black Dep-Reeve. Lazarus Parkinson. Councillors Robert Royce. John Duffield. John McKerlie.

1860—Reeve Donald Black Dep.-Reeve. Lazarus Parkinson Councillors; Robert Royce. John Duffield John McKerlie.

1861- -Reeve Donald Black Dep.-Reeve. Lazarus Parkinson. Councillors: Robert Royce John Duffield. Henry Strange.

1862—Reeve, Robert Royce Dep.-Reeve. James Loghrin Councillors. James Wilson. John Duffield. Henry Strange.

863—Reeve. Robert Royce Dep.-Reeve James Loghrin Councillors: John Rea. John Duffield. George Nelson.

1864 -Reeve James Loghrin Dep.-Reeve, Robert Royce Councillors. John Rea, John Duffield. George Nelson.

1865— Reeve James Loghrin Dep.-Reeve. Robert Royce. Councillors John Rea. John Duffield. William Farrish.

866—Reeve, James Loghrin. Dep.-Reeve. Robert Royce Councillors: John Rea. John Duffield. William Farrish

[illegible]—Reeve, [illegible] Deputy Reeve, [illegible]. Councillors, James [illegible], William Argo, [illegible].

[illegible]—Reeve, [illegible]. Councillors, [illegible] McNabb, William Argo, [illegible].

[illegible]—Reeve, [illegible]. Councillors, [illegible] McNabb, William Argo, John Dickinson, [illegible].

[illegible] a member of County Council [illegible] and [illegible].

[illegible]—Reeve, [illegible] McNabb, William Argo, John Dickinson, [illegible].

[illegible]—Reeve, [illegible] McNabb, [illegible], John Dickinson, [illegible].

[illegible]—Reeve, [illegible], John Dickinson, [illegible].

[illegible]—Reeve, [illegible]. Councillors, Robert Hamilton, [illegible], John Dickinson, [illegible].

[illegible]—Reeve, [illegible] Hamilton, Thomas [illegible], John Dickinson, [illegible].

[illegible]—Reeve, [illegible]. Councillors, George Armstrong, Robert [illegible].

[illegible]—Reeve, [illegible]. Councillors, [illegible] Hamilton, [illegible].

[illegible]—Reeve, [illegible] Black, Alfred Farrow, [illegible] McDougall, Wm. Parkinson.

[illegible]—Reeve, [illegible]. Councillors, James Black, Robert Hamilton, [illegible] McDougall, Wm. Parkinson.

[illegible]—Reeve, [illegible]. Councillors, James Black, [illegible] McNabb, [illegible] McDougall, Wm. Parkinson.

[illegible]—Reeve, [illegible]. Councillors, James Black, [illegible] McNabb, Adam Wood, Wm. Parkinson.

[illegible]—Reeve, [illegible]. Councillors, James Black, [illegible] McNabb, Adam Wood, Wm. Parkinson.

[illegible]—Reeve, James Black, [illegible], William Barber, [illegible] McNabb, Adam Wood, John Rae.

[illegible]—Reeve, James Black, [illegible], William Barber, [illegible] McNabb, Adam Wood, [illegible] Rae.

[illegible]—Reeve, [illegible] McNabb, [illegible]. Councillors, [illegible] Barber, [illegible], Adam Wood, [illegible] Rae.

[illegible]—Reeve, [illegible] McNabb, [illegible], [illegible] Barber, [illegible], Adam Wood, [illegible] Rae.

[illegible]—Reeve, [illegible]. Councillors, James [illegible], [illegible], John Rae.

[illegible]—Reeve, [illegible], Adam Wood, [illegible], Alfred [illegible], John Rae, H. E. [illegible], John Rae [illegible].

[illegible]—Reeve, Adam Wood. [illegible]. Councillors, [illegible] Barber, [illegible], Alfred [illegible], [illegible].

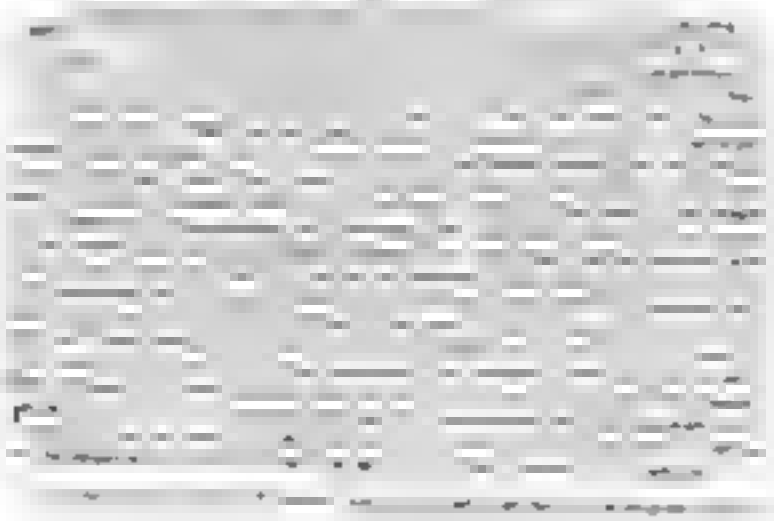
[illegible]—Reeve, Adam Wood. [illegible]. Councillors, [illegible] Barber, [illegible], Alfred [illegible], [illegible] E. Allen.

[illegible]—Reeve, Adam Wood. [illegible]. Councillors, [illegible] Barber, [illegible], Alfred Farrow, [illegible].

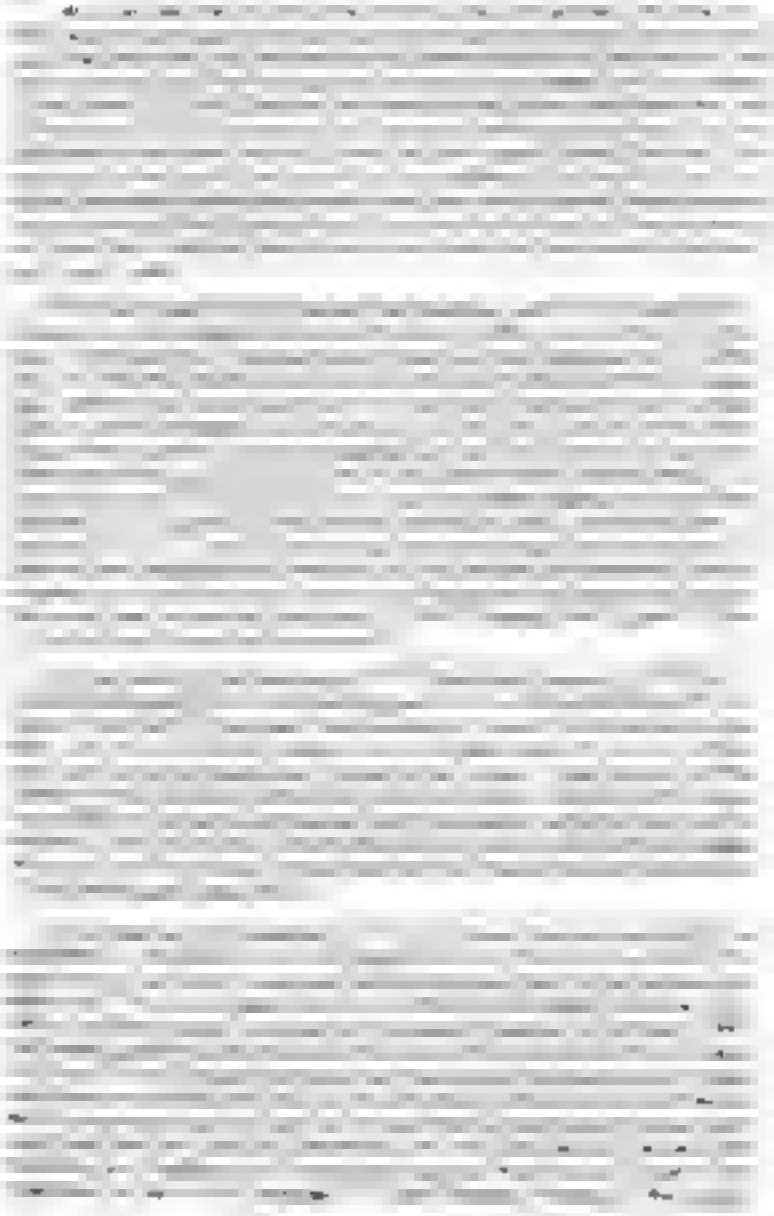
[illegible]—Reeve, Adam Wood. [illegible]. Councillors, Charles Barber, [illegible], Alfred Farrow, [illegible] E. Allen.

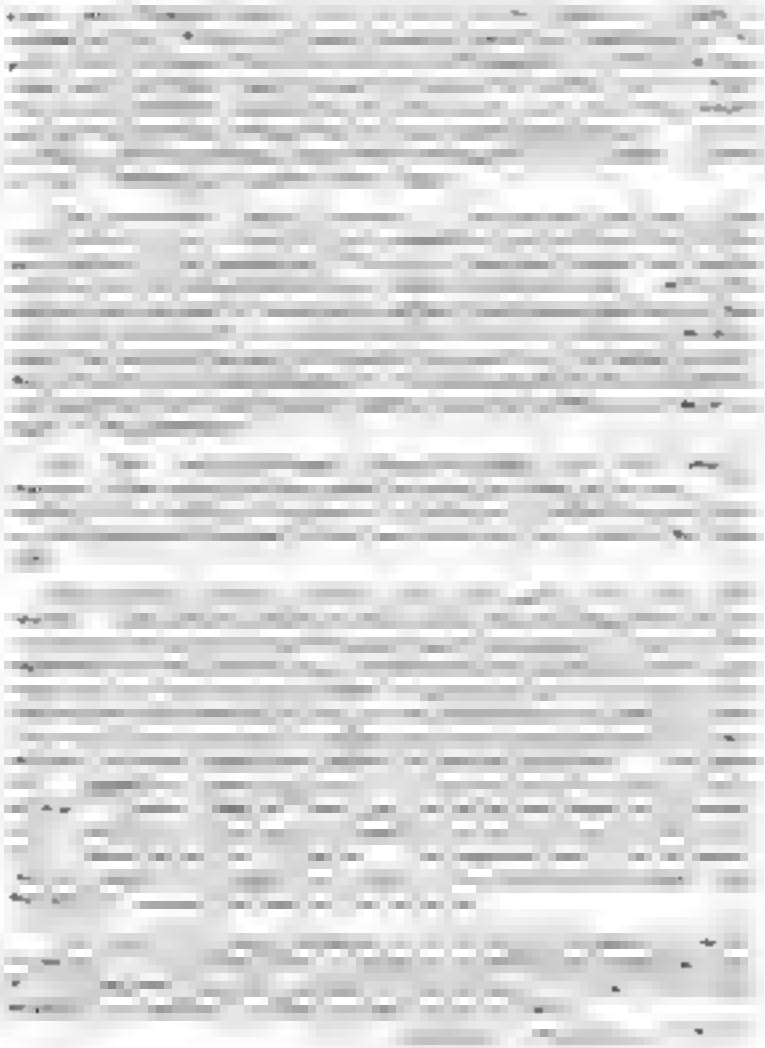
[illegible]—Reeve, Adam Wood. Councillors, Wm. A. Dickinson, [illegible], Henry [illegible], George [illegible].

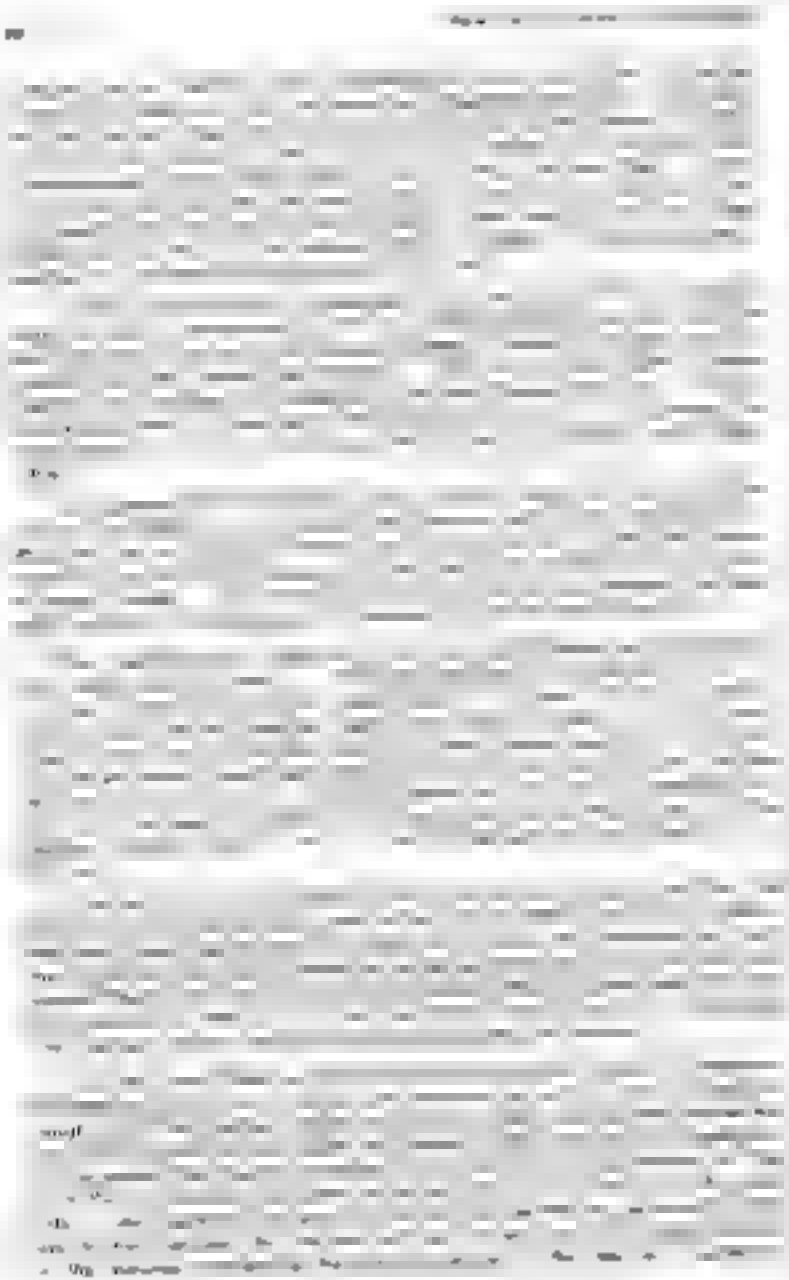
[illegible]

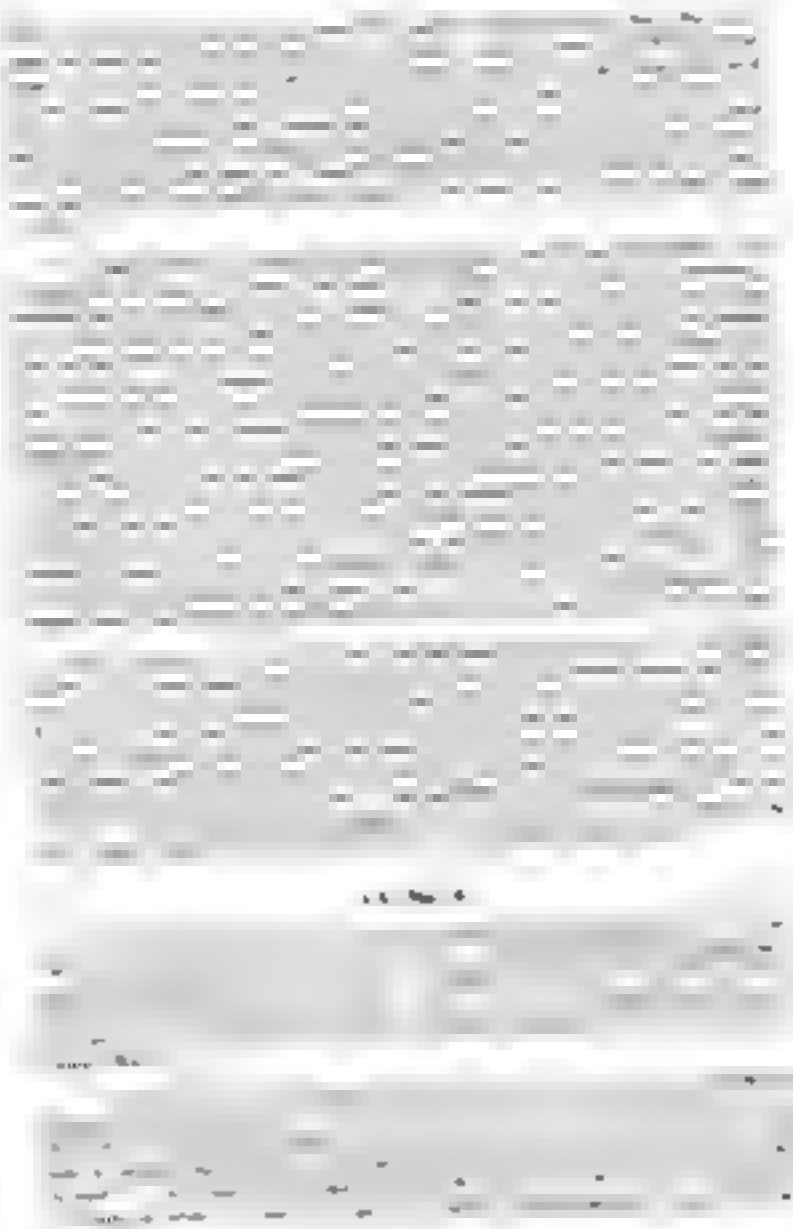


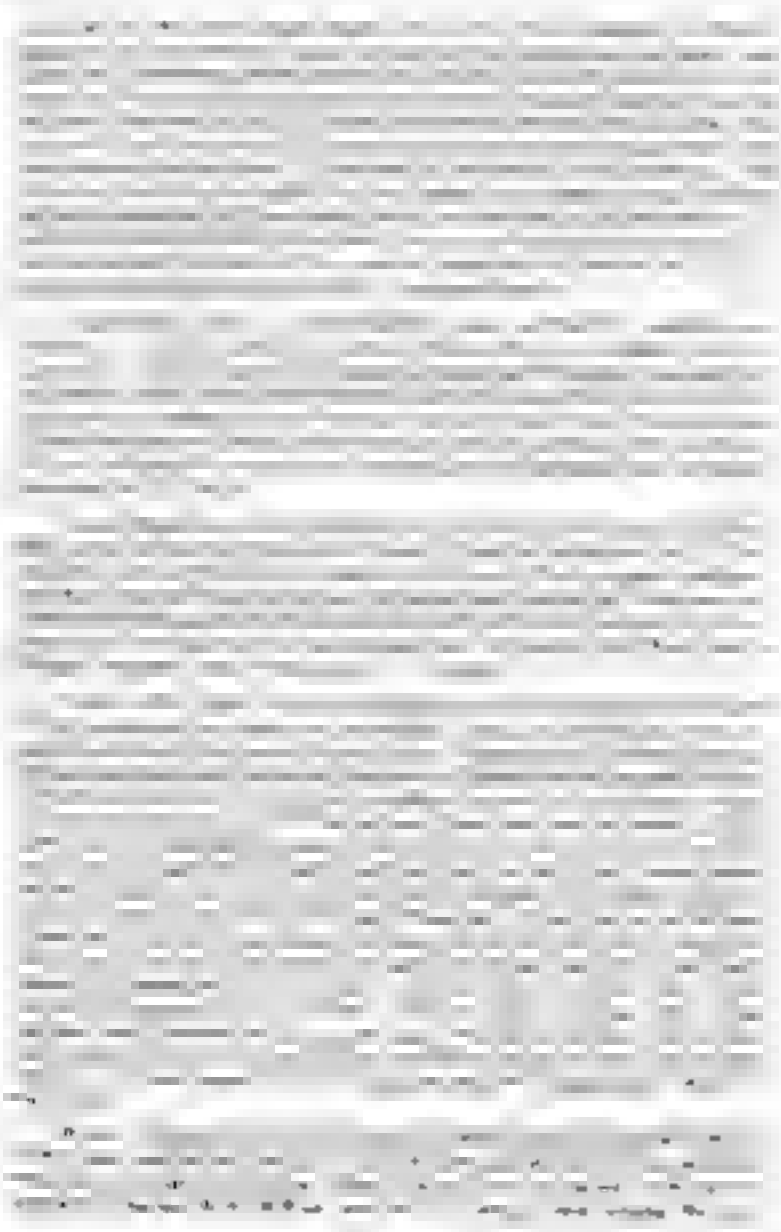
## Schools

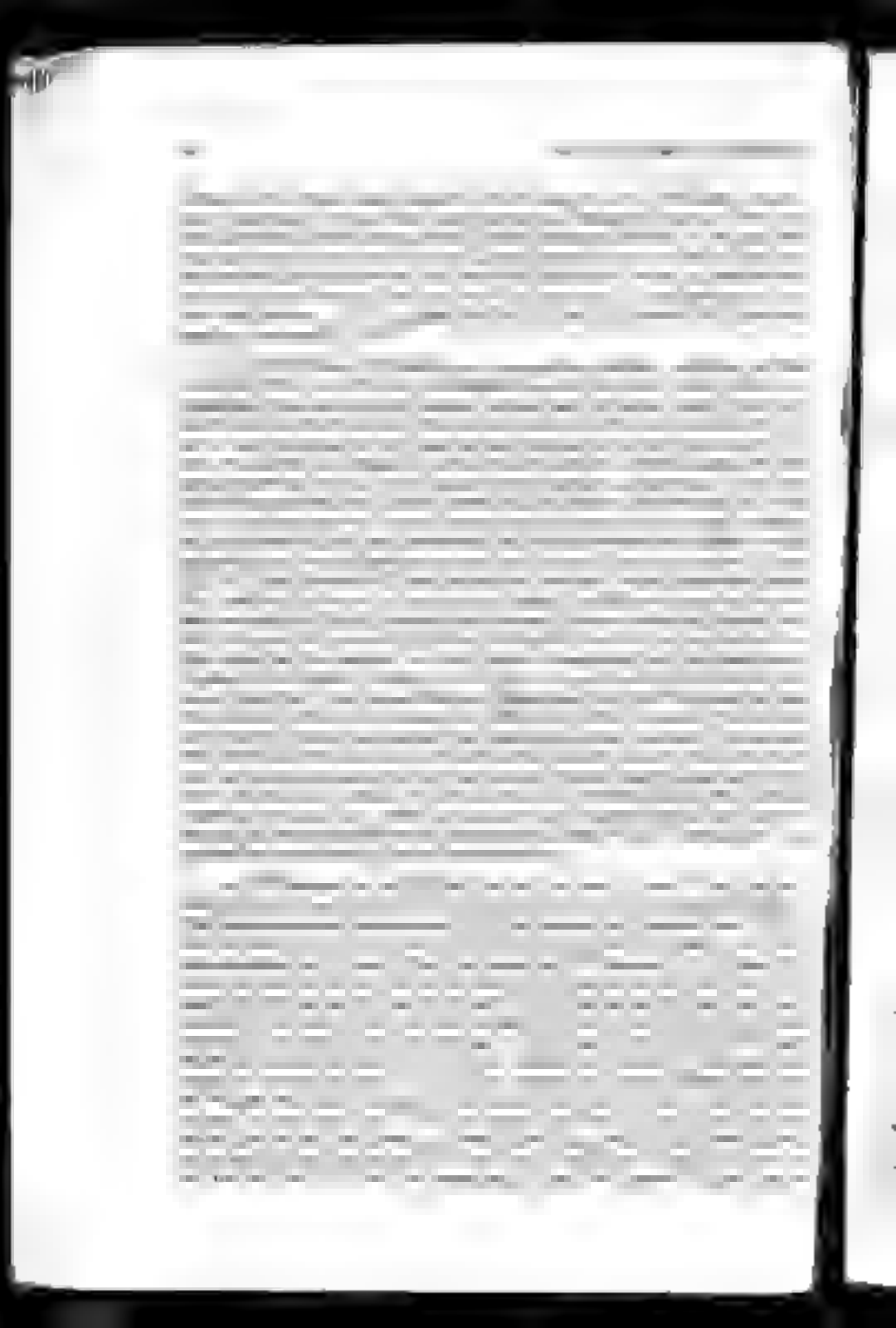












[illegible]

## [illegible]

[illegible]

Jimmy. read hat James J. Hill, who built railways in the States was born in this section and went to school here

Tom. That's a long time ago but this must be a good school, cause Dr Fred Hosking and Rev William Graham belonged here too, and there was D. H Shultis, who started the turnip export business and Dr Shultis in Hamilton—besides Dr Robert Farries Dr Adam Farries and Rev Frank Farries. Rev George O Slack and Rev. Ed. Black

Bess. They say the Dunbars of Guelph. the lawyer family went from here. too. I guess they must get good teachers. anyway 'cause Dewey Soper went to school here and he explores the Arctic.

Teacher (aside): I wonder I wonder what I can do with these twenty pupils.

## S. S. NO. 6, BRAMOSA

### (Photo taken about 1928)

**Back Row, Left to Right**

William Patterson, farmer, P.E. No. 4 Rockwood
Norman Presley, carpenter, Rockwood
Robert Hall, retired Dairy Inspector, J.P. Ramsay, Magnate
Capt. Henry A. Musselman, B.A., Sr. Guelph, M.P. for Wellington S.
Miss Minnie Madden, [illegible] teacher, [illegible] church worker, mem. [illegible] Presbyterian Church, Rockwood, [illegible] Synod, W.M.S.
Major A. Abbott, [illegible] Woolwich, Guelph, Teacher, Purchasing Agent, [illegible] Assistant Principal, Guelph Collegiate
Employee, Johnston Mfg. Co. (Grey Rockwood)
Margaret McPhee, Roy [illegible] Mrs. A. M. Pherson, P.E. No. 4, Rockwood
Marjorie A. [illegible]
[illegible] Northern Ontario
[illegible] Rockwood

**Second Row**

[illegible], farmer, P.E. No. 4, Rockwood
Edgar [illegible], farmer, P.E. No. 4, Rockwood
Mildred A. [illegible]
Mrs. A.F. Day, Roy P. M. [illegible], Hamilton, Ont.]
William Ingles, [illegible], Guelph, Ont.
Margaret Ingles, Mrs. G. [illegible], Nelson, Toronto
Mrs. [illegible] Roy, [illegible], Ont.
Edna Knapp
Helen E. [illegible], Teacher, [illegible] No. 6, Eramosa.

**Front Row:**

[illegible], Guelph, Ont.
Brandon, [illegible], Woolwich, Ontario
Harry Bevan, farmer, P.E. No. 4, Rockwood
Fred Day, M.A., Head Maths. Dept., [illegible] High School, Com., Hamilton
Russel Patterson, Farmer, P.E. No. 4, Rockwood
Edward Maude, Farmer, P.E. No. 4, Rockwood
[illegible], Nelson, Toronto, Ont.
George [illegible], Ex-Postmaster, Rockwood
Harry [illegible], Acton, Ont.

[illegible]

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1848 | 1842 |
| [illegible] | 332 | |
| [illegible] | 970 | 209 |
| [illegible] | 3 | 6 |
| [illegible] | 4 | |
| [illegible] | 9 | |
| Church of England | 375 | 31 |
| Church of Rome | 297 | 106 |
| Church of Scotland | 134 | 68 |
| [illegible] | 85 | |
| [illegible] | 1 [illegible] | 96 |
| [illegible] | 101 | 11 |
| [illegible] | 35 | 68 |
| [illegible] | 36 | 2 |
| [illegible] | 220 | 7 |
| [illegible] | 1 | 11 |
| [illegible] | 38 | 0 |
| [illegible] | 28 | 19 |
| [illegible] | 88 | 83 |
| [illegible] | 0 | |
| Members of England | 388 | 170 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | 848 | 1842 |
| Natives of Scotland | 217 | 97 |
| Natives of Ireland | 378 | 196 |
| British Origin | 999 | 516 |
| United States | 57 | 50 |
| Other Countries | 8 | 2 |
| Births in one year Males 43. Females 27 | | |
| Marriages 5 | | |
| Deaths Males 4, Females 10 | | |
| Lunatics | 3 | |
| Farm Servants, male | 46 | 5 |
| Farm Servants, female | 28 | 4 |
| Domestic Servants male | 1 | |
| Children attending school. Male 217 Female 167 | | |
| Males under 5 years | 223 | 123 |
| Females under 5 years | 217 | 108 |
| Males above 5 and under 14 | 258 | 134 |
| Females above 5 and under 14 | 230 | 22 |
| Males and Females above 14 | 994 | 484 |
| Males 520; Females 474 | | |
| Children between 5 and 5 | 550 | |
| Acres of land occupied | 32146 | 24445 |
| Under tillage | 8645 | 5898 |
| Under pasture | 995 | |
| Wild land | 21506 | |
| Unfit for cultivation | 2450 | |
| Wheat produced, bushels | 59701 | 9297 |
| Barley produced, bushels | 3792 | 8847 |
| Oats produced, bushels | 35971 | 22973 |
| Corn produced, bushels | 55 | 100 |
| Buckwheat, bushels | 277 | |
| Potatoes, bushels | 12644 | 17708 |
| Peas, bushels | | 49241 |
| Flax, lbs | 190 | |
| Maple Sugar, lbs | 3 334 | 31252 |
| Wool, lbs | 7784 | 2702 |
| Fulled Cloth, yards | 496 | 555 |
| Linen or Cotton yards | | 1330 |
| Flannel, yards | 4599 | 229 |
| Cheese, lbs. | 4480 | |
| Butter lbs. | 11406 | |
| Meat Cattle | 2496 | 1520 |
| Horses | 413 | 436 |
| Sheep | 2461 | 2979 |
| Hogs | 1998 | 1424 |

Grist Mills, 2 Run of Stones 4 Barrels of Flour 600 Saw Mills, 5. Lumber. 100 ft board measure, 440,000. Carding Mill, 1 Wool manufactured. lbs. 0000. Tanneries, 1 Hides manufactured, 60. Potasheries, Ovts. 42 Woolen Manufactories. 1 Yards 5200. 263 Farmers, 26 Labourers, 2 Tailors. 1 Woolfactor 4 Shoemakers, 2 Waggonmakers, 3 School Teachers 2 Surveyors 2 Blacksmiths 4 Innkeepers, 2 Storekeepers, 4 Carpenters, 1 Mason. 5 Weavers, Engineer 2 Millers 1 Distiller

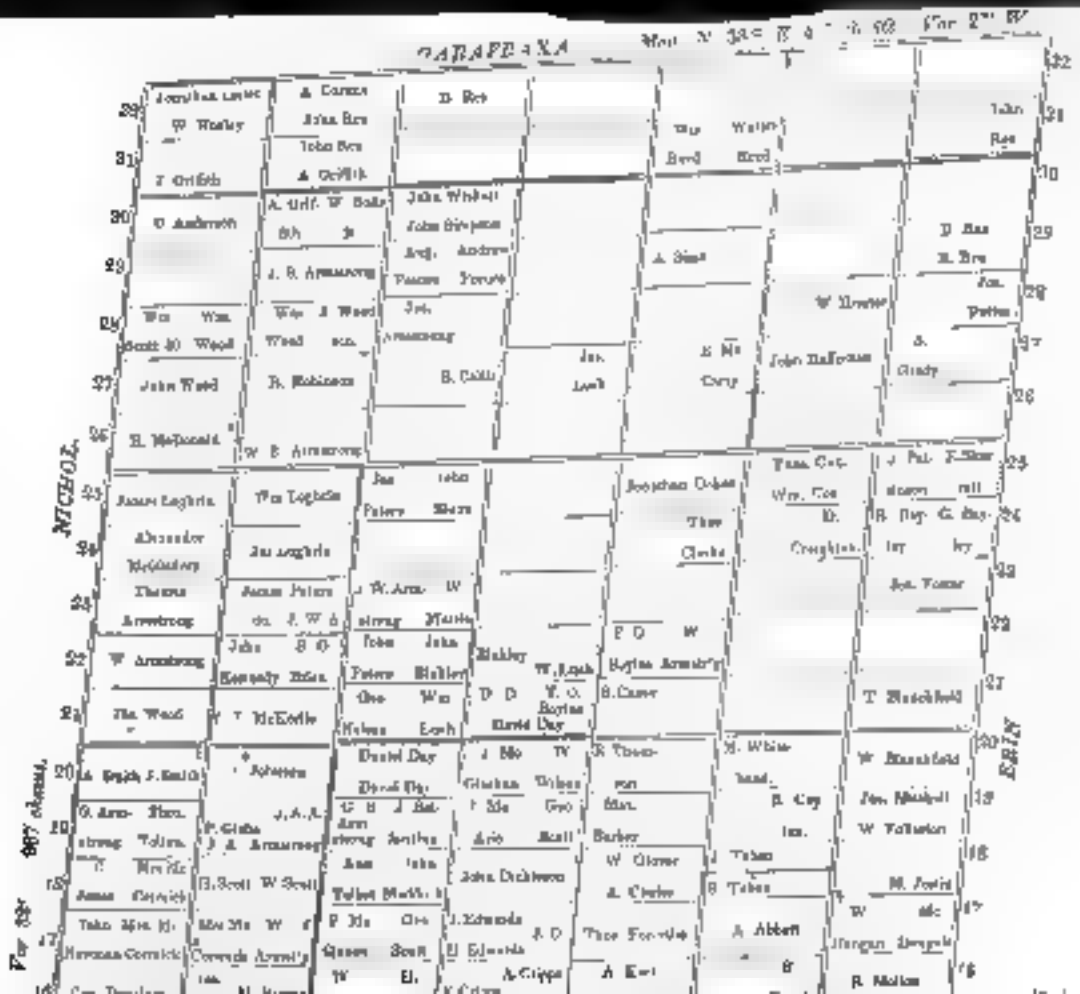
Eramosa is bounded on the North-East by the Township of Erin: on the opposite sides by the Townships of Nichol and Guelph: on the North-West by Garafraxa: and on the South-East by Nassagaweya. The Township is small, being 12 miles long, and only about 6 miles broad, the South-Eastern portion being stony in many places whilst the Northern part is well adapted for cultivation. Eramosa is well watered, having two branches of the Speed running across the whole township while various small rivulets supply the remaining parts and feed the main streams. The Speed, proper is not used for any manufactories of importance: but the Southern branch, sometimes called the Grand River is made available for many useful purposes. At Rockwood, Henry Strange esquire, has a Saw Mill, carding machine and cloth factory in full operation, while a grist mill is in course of erection. On another stream, within a short distance of the above is the grist mill of Mr Squires which was at one time a turning and last factory. A little nearer to Guelph, Mr J. D. Murphy has an ashery carding machine, fulling mill and saw mill: and on the adjoining lot, is the tannery of Mr McDonald which was commenced only last year. On a lower branch of the same stream, are the Eden Mills owned and occupied by A. C. Argo, Esq. comprising a flour mill and saw mill. The same gentleman has also a store contiguous.

Eramosa presents a fine field for the geologist and the lover of nature. The course of the Southern stream is marked by rugged rocks, precipices and water falls—small, it is true, but beautiful, especially in so plain a country. Near Rockwood and also near the saw mill of Mr Everts, are interesting rocks, well worth a visit from the curious or scientific. In preparing for the foundation of Mr Strange's flour mill, a quantity of pure lead ore was found, but whether efforts have been made to find out its value, we cannot say.

[redacted]

KEY TO 850 MAP

a School House b Place of Worship c Saw Mill d Carding Mill
e Store f Blacksmith Shop g Tavern h Brewery i Grist Mill j Post Office


GARAFRAXA
NICHOL
ERIN
For the Boy Annex.

day of April in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and thirty-seven and in the seventh year of our reign

By Command of His Excellency in Council "F. B. Head" Seal

Upper Canada. 18th. May 1839 Administration of Sir P. Maitland. "Patent fee and survey paid. Settlement duties performed."

Reverse

GRANT David Farrier 100 acres in Eramosa District of Gore Recorded 22 April 1837 Book C H folio 375 G. Cameron Registrar

## CLERGY RESERVE DEED

### Province of Canada

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland QUEEN Defender of the Faith To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come GREETING

WHEREAS the lands hereinafter described and granted are part of the Lands which have been from time to time according to the provisions of Law in that behalf allotted and appropriated and are commonly known as CLERGY RESERVES

AND WHEREAS by an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the eighth year of the late King George the Fourth intituled "An Act to authorize the sale of a part of the Clergy Reserves in the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada" and by another Act of the said Parliament passed in the Third and Fourth years of Our Reign intituled "An Act to provide for the sale of the Clergy Reserves in the Province of Canada, and for the distribution of the proceeds thereof" power and authority is given to the Governor Lieutenant-Governor or Person Administering the Government respectively as well of the said Province of Upper Canada as of the said Province of Canada, with the advice of the Executive Council to sell grant alienate and convey all or any of the said Clergy Reserves

AND WHEREAS in the pursuance of the power and authority given in and by the said Acts or by any one or other of them a contract hath been duly entered into for the sale and conveyance of the lands tenements and hereditaments hereinafter mentioned, being part of the said Clergy Reserves unto ROBERT ROBINSON, of the Township of Eramosa in the County of Wellington Yeoman, his heirs and assigns at and for the price of ONE HUNDRED and SIXTY POUNDS

NOW KNOW YE that in consideration of the said sum of One Hundred and Sixty Pounds to Our Commissioner appointed by Us to super

[illegible] the sale of the said Energy Resources to and for the use and benefit of the said Energy Resources Ltd and the [illegible] and delivered and by Robert Robertson the [illegible] and by Robert Robertson [illegible] and delivered and by Robert Robertson [illegible] and by Robert Robertson [illegible] and by Robert Robertson [illegible]

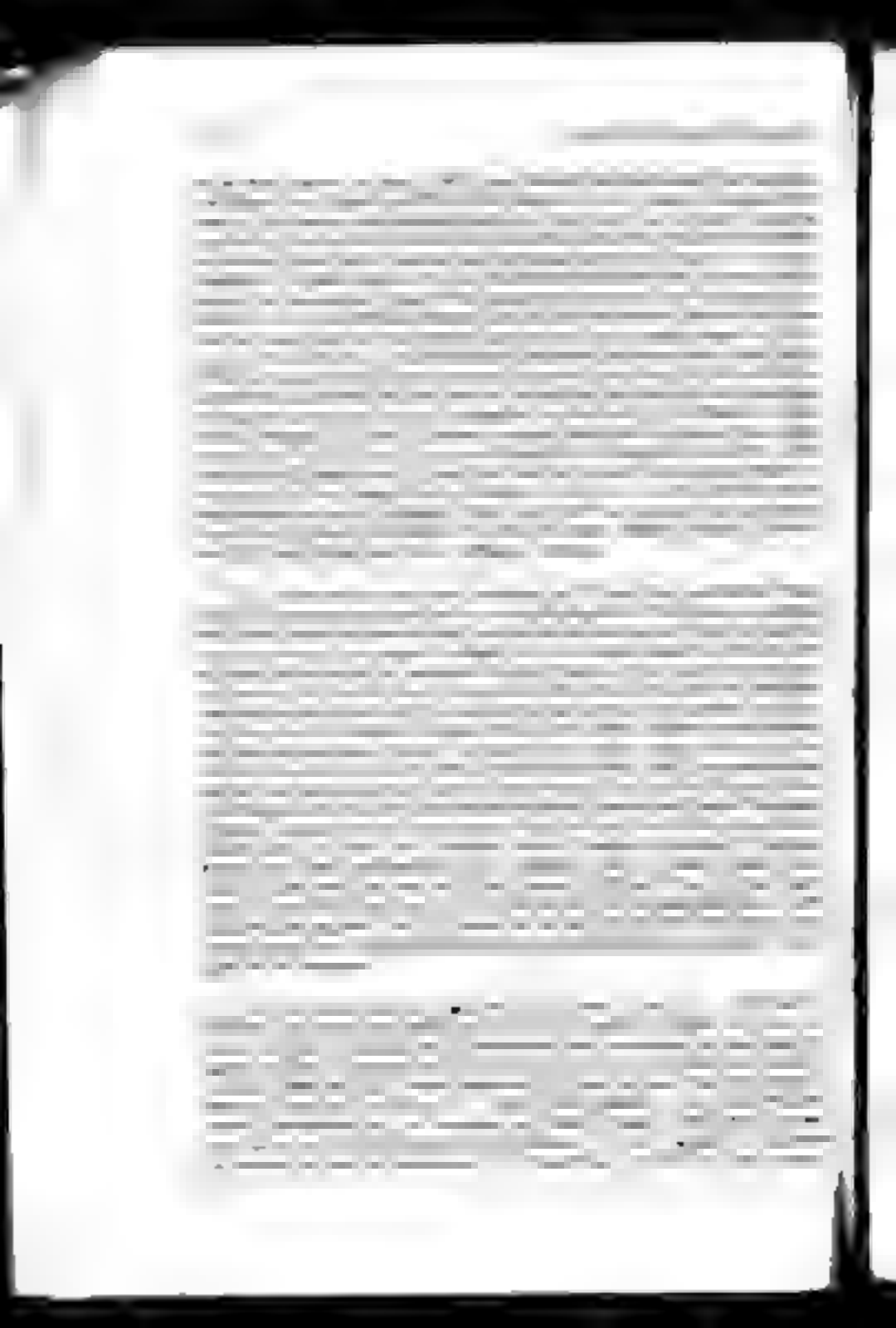
and probably before 1838, for Lot 27 is only some 2¼ miles from Berrie Hill Church. We may assume that he lived on this lot under one of three conditions: 1st, as a squatter 2nd, as a tenant of the Crown, or 3rd, under an Agreement for Sale with the grant obtainable when fully paid for.

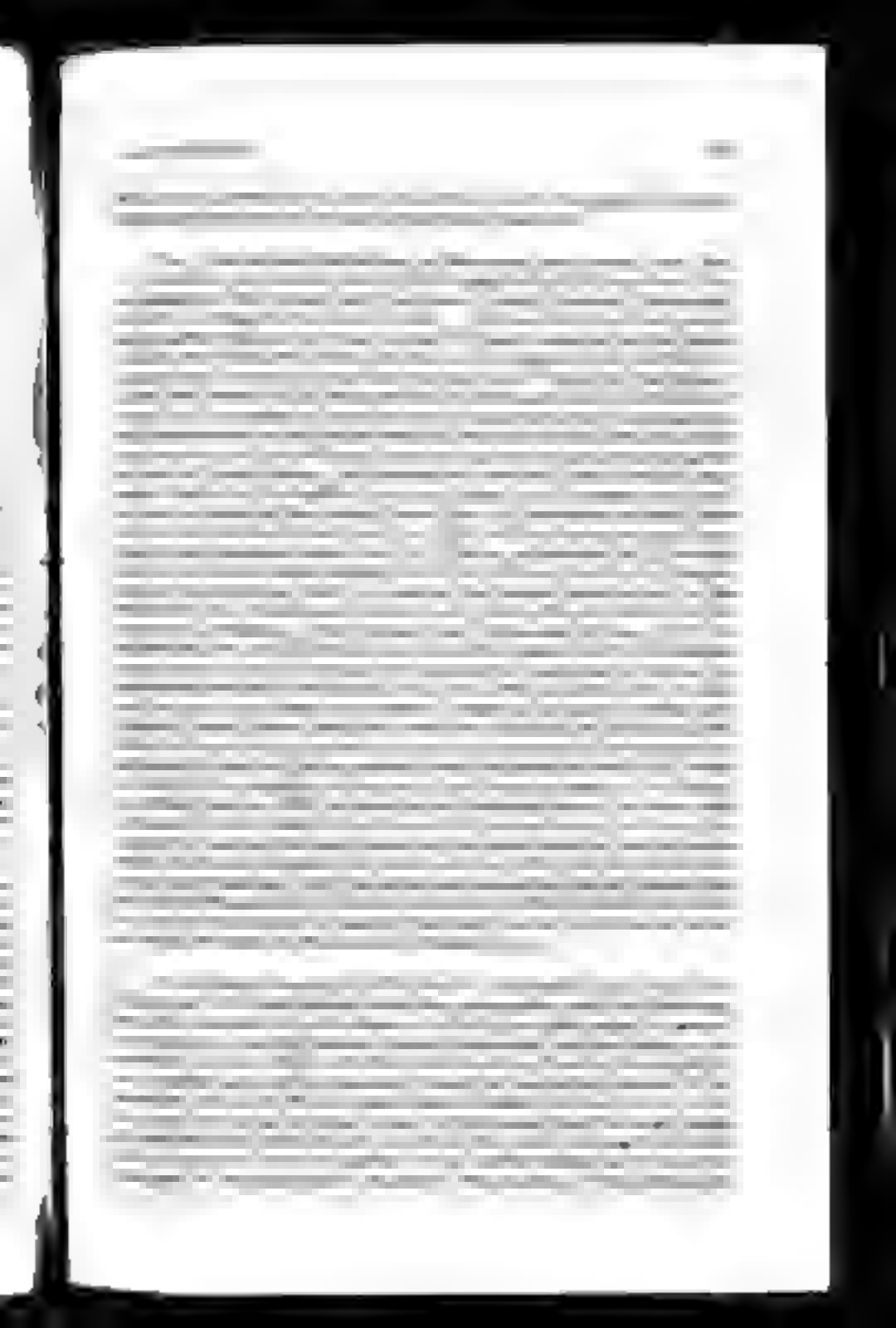
It is interesting to note that whereas free grants were obtainable from the Crown in the 1820's and 1830's, land values had so increased by 1852 that the Crown received 160.0.0 Pounds or approximately $800.00 from Robert Robinson for this lot. It is interesting, too, to note that while the act to "authorize the sale of Part of the Clergy Reserves" was passed in the reign of George 4th, the act to provide for the sale of the Clergy Reserves was passed in the 3rd and 4th years of the reign of Queen Victoria. The latter act coming so soon after the Mackenzie rebellion, seems to indicate that the authorities in England had at last recognised the feeling and temper of the settlers regarding Clergy Reserves. There appears to be a substantial difference between the two Acts, that of George 4th merely "authorises" the sale of "part" of the Clergy Reserves, while that of Victoria provides for the sale of the Clergy Reserves" presumably all of them.

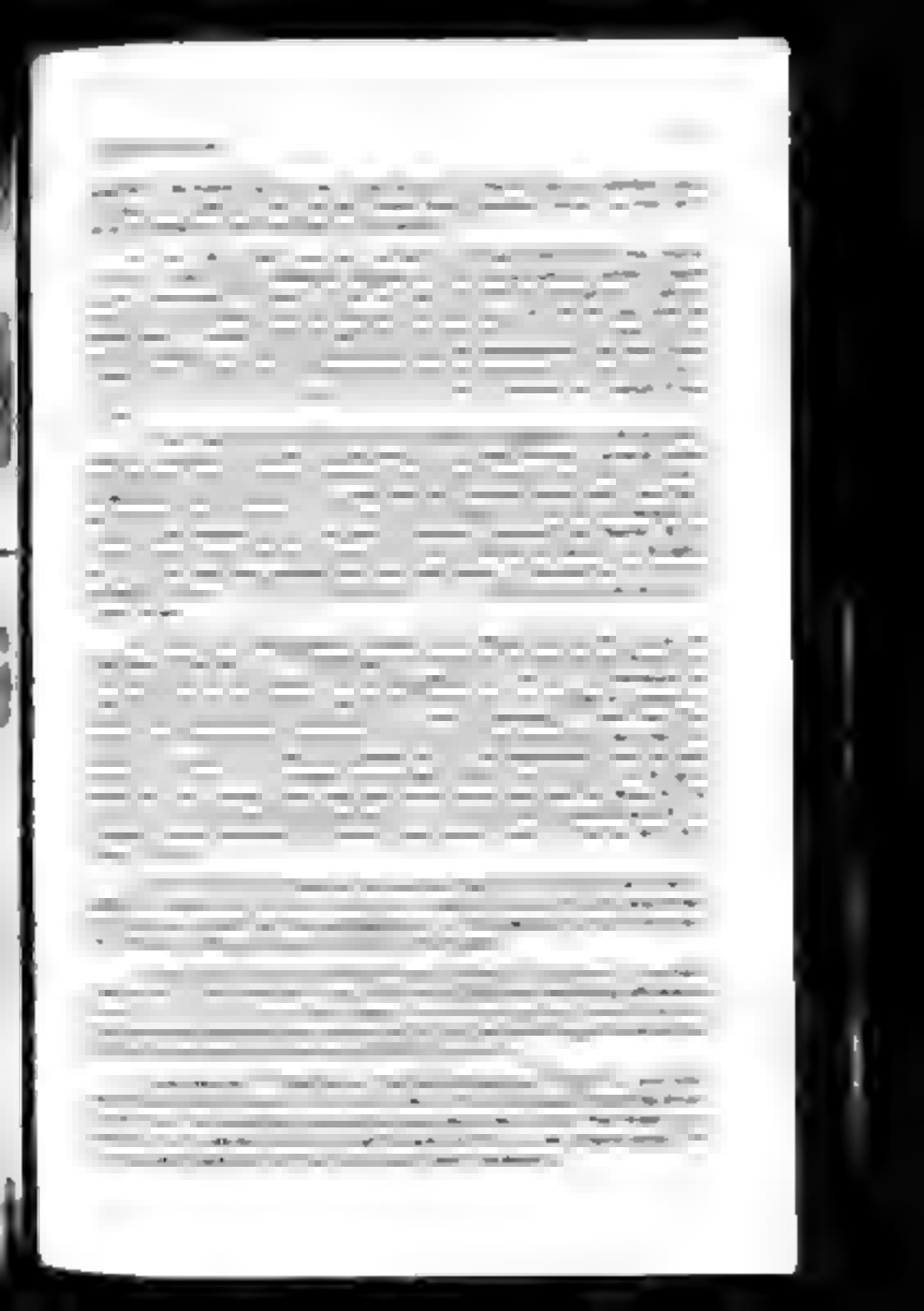
There are several cases in Eramosa in 1950 where members of the fourth generation are operating the farms of their great-grandfathers and children of the fifth generation are residing thereon, but it appears that the case of Mr. Clare Robinson of the fifth generation operating Lot 27 and his daughters, Linda and Velda, of the sixth generation living there, is unique in Eramosa.

# Church History

[illegible]







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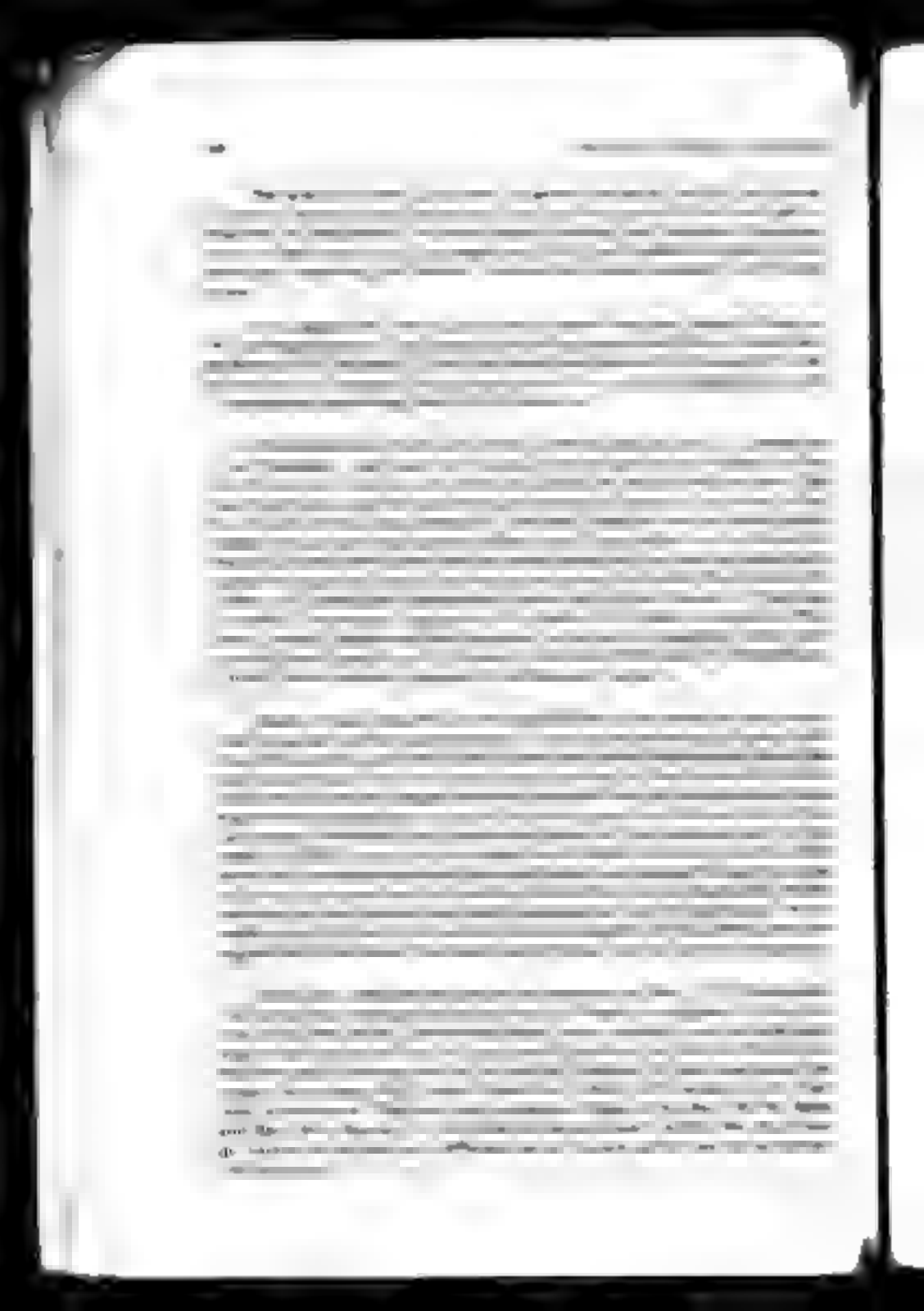
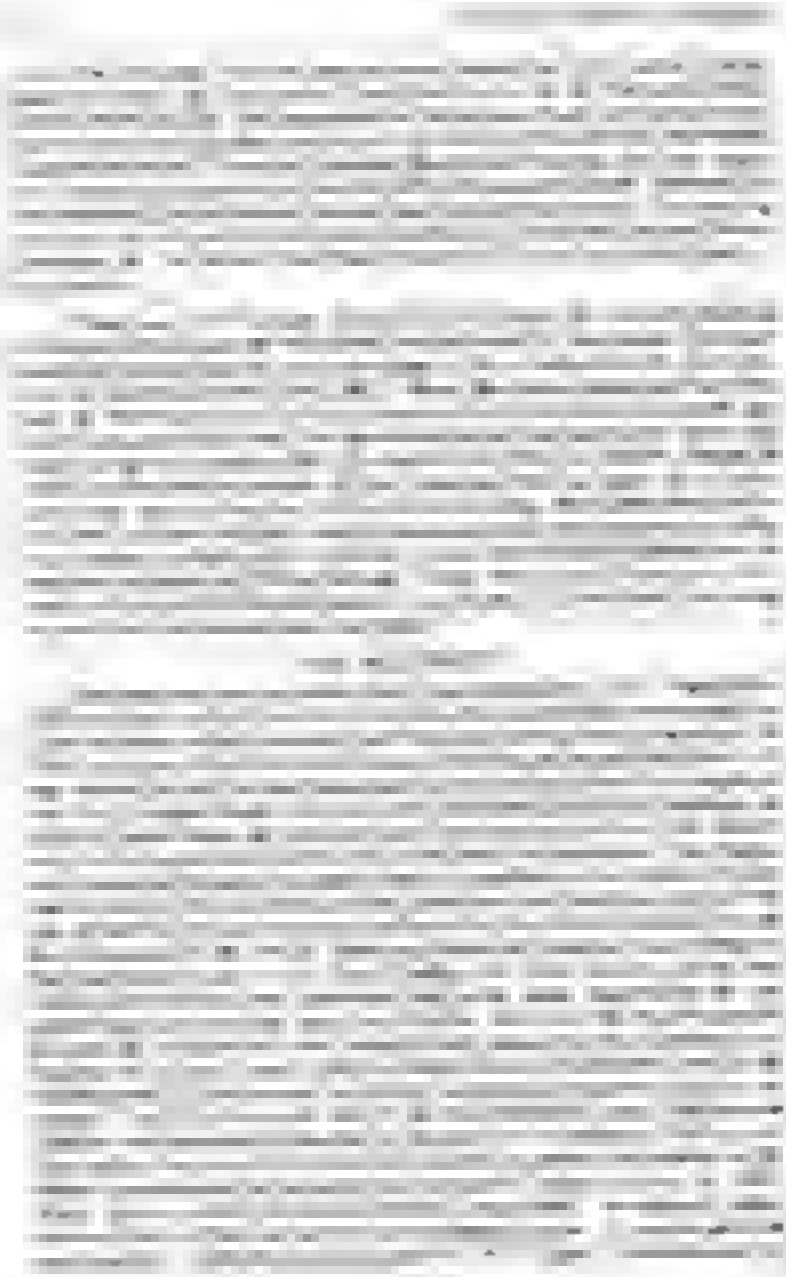
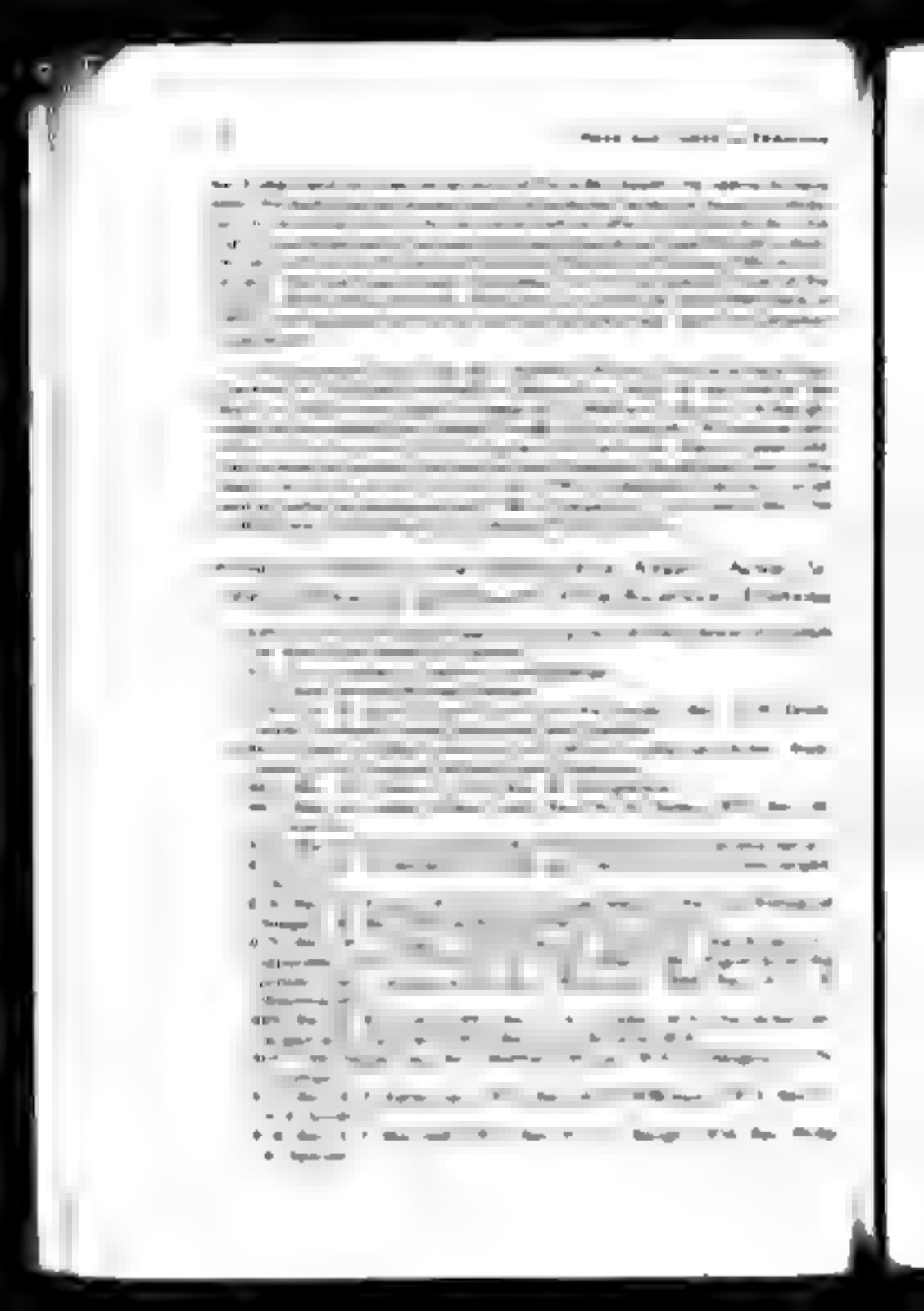
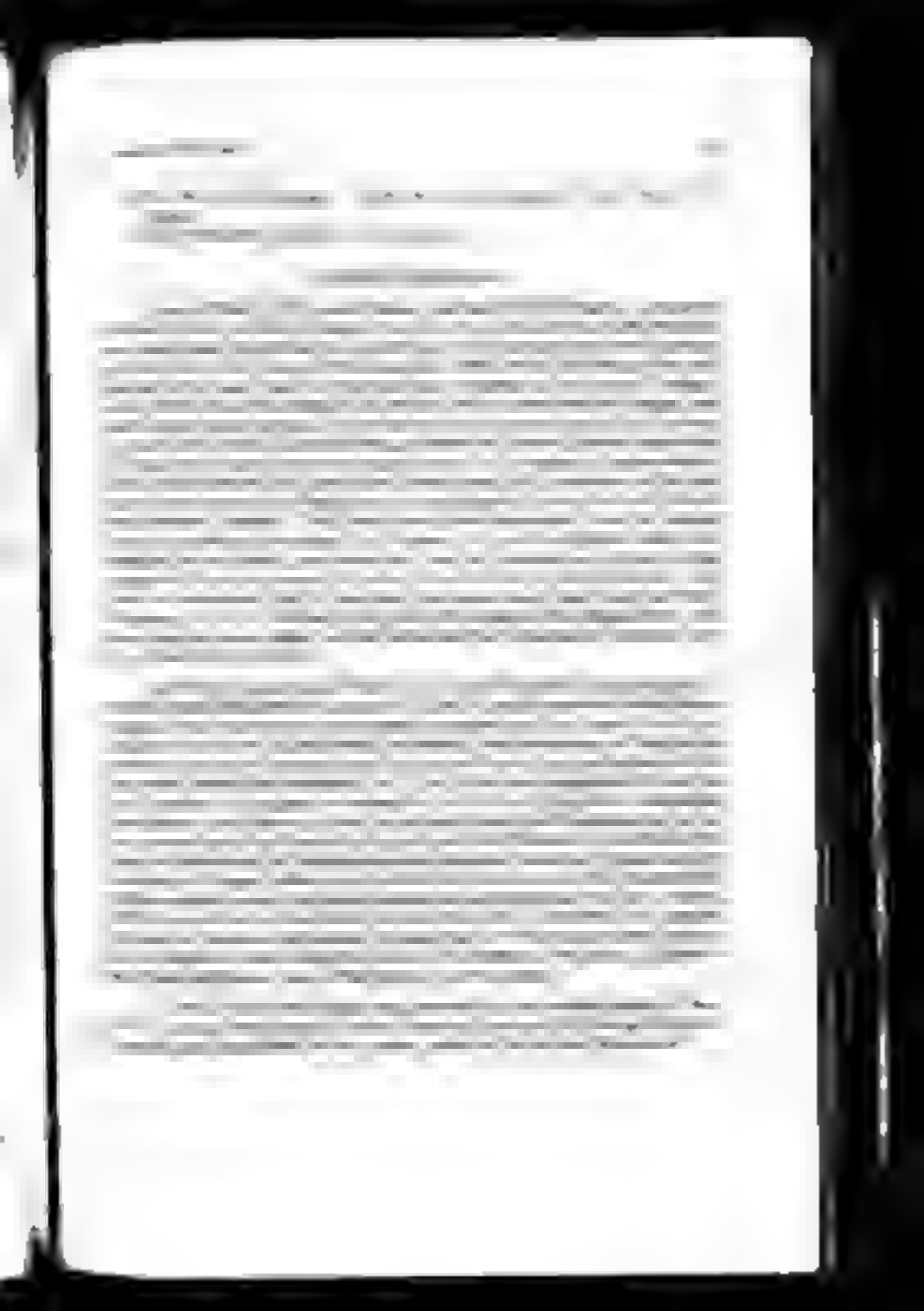
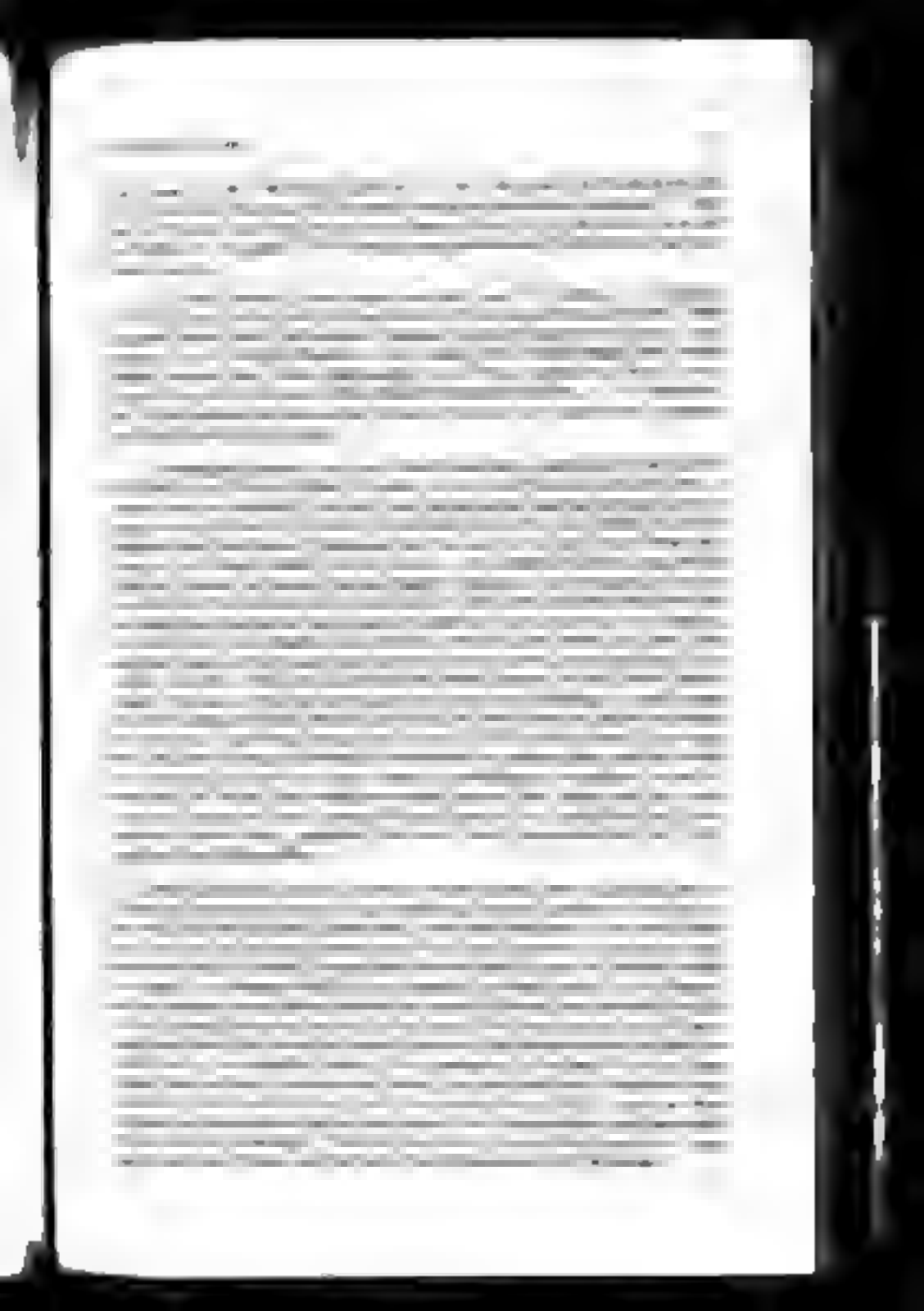
The author and family at Georges Park, Guelph
Picture taken in 1952











[illegible]

[illegible]

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## [illegible]

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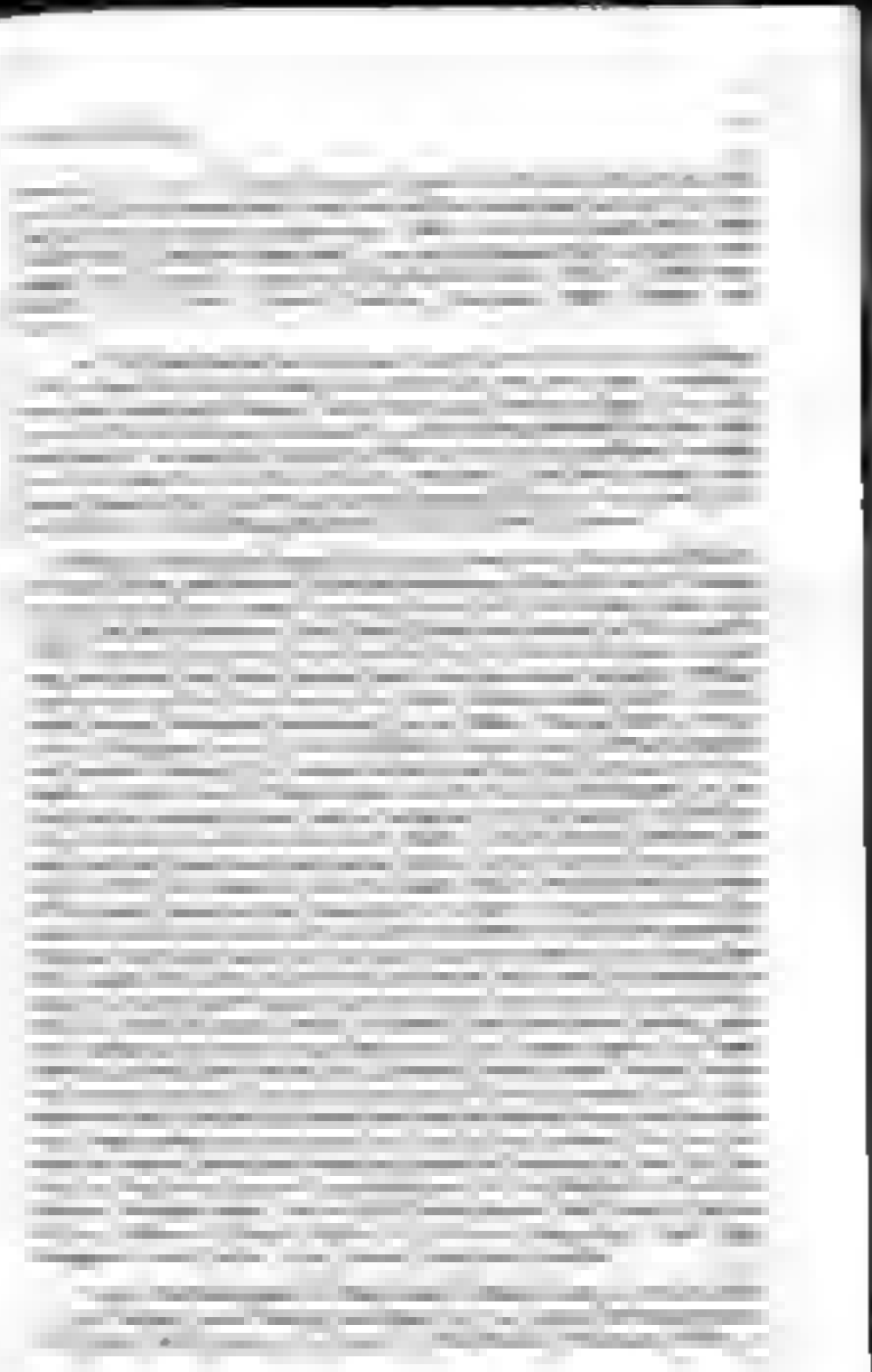
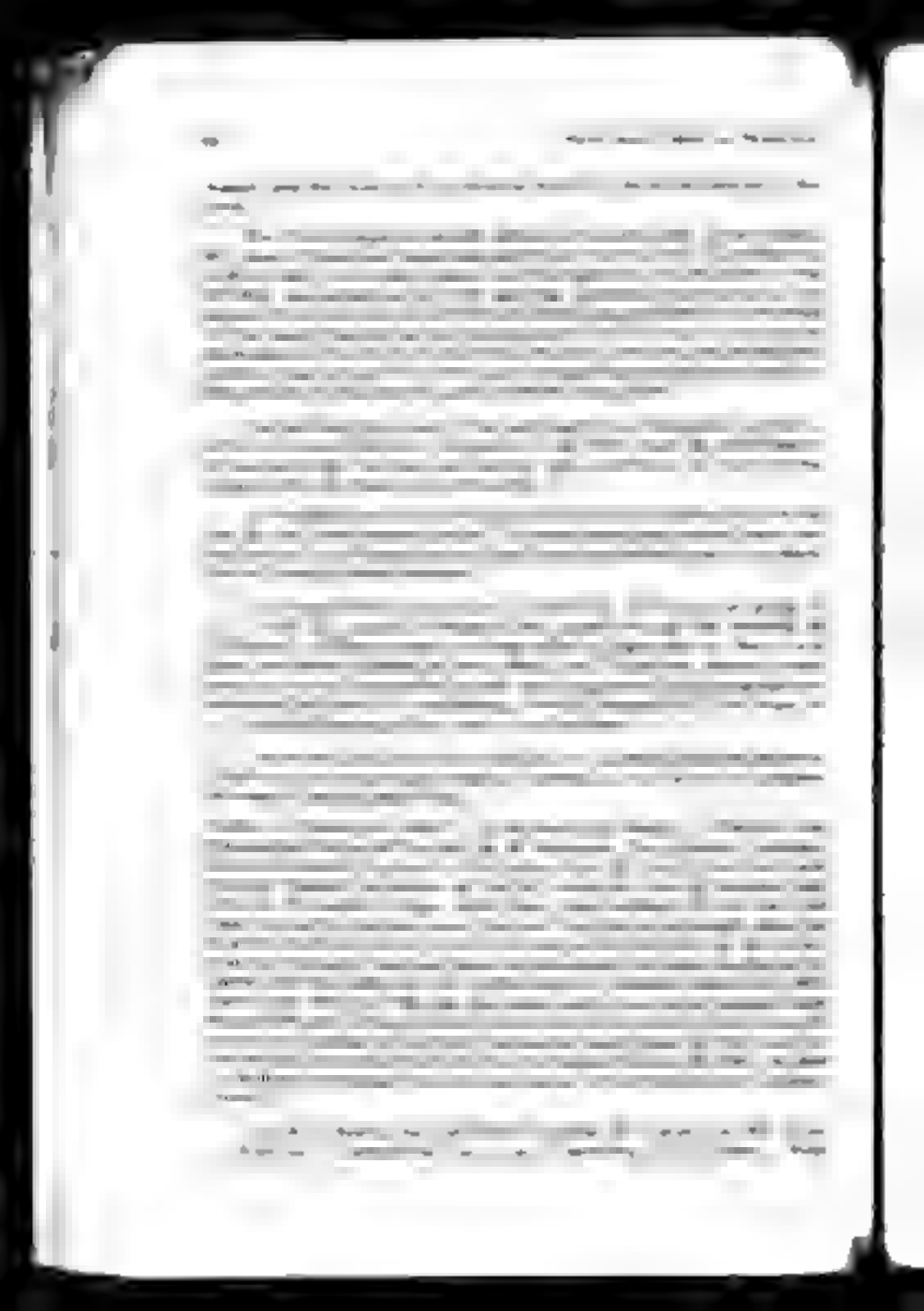
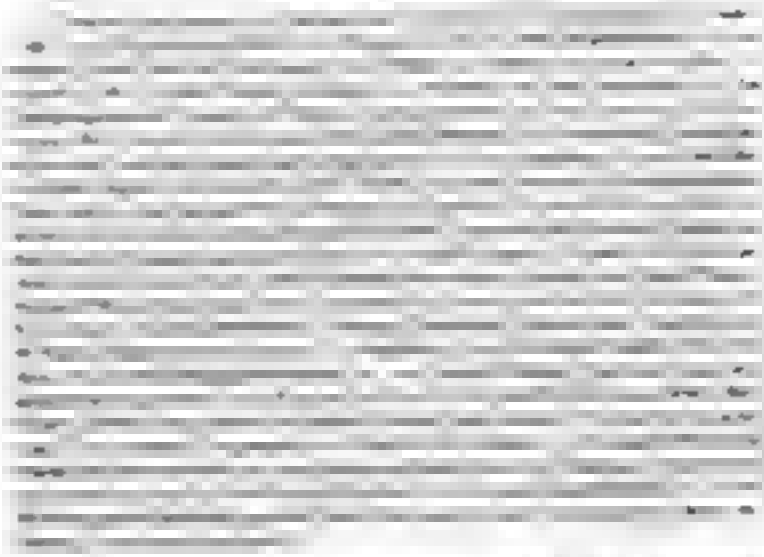


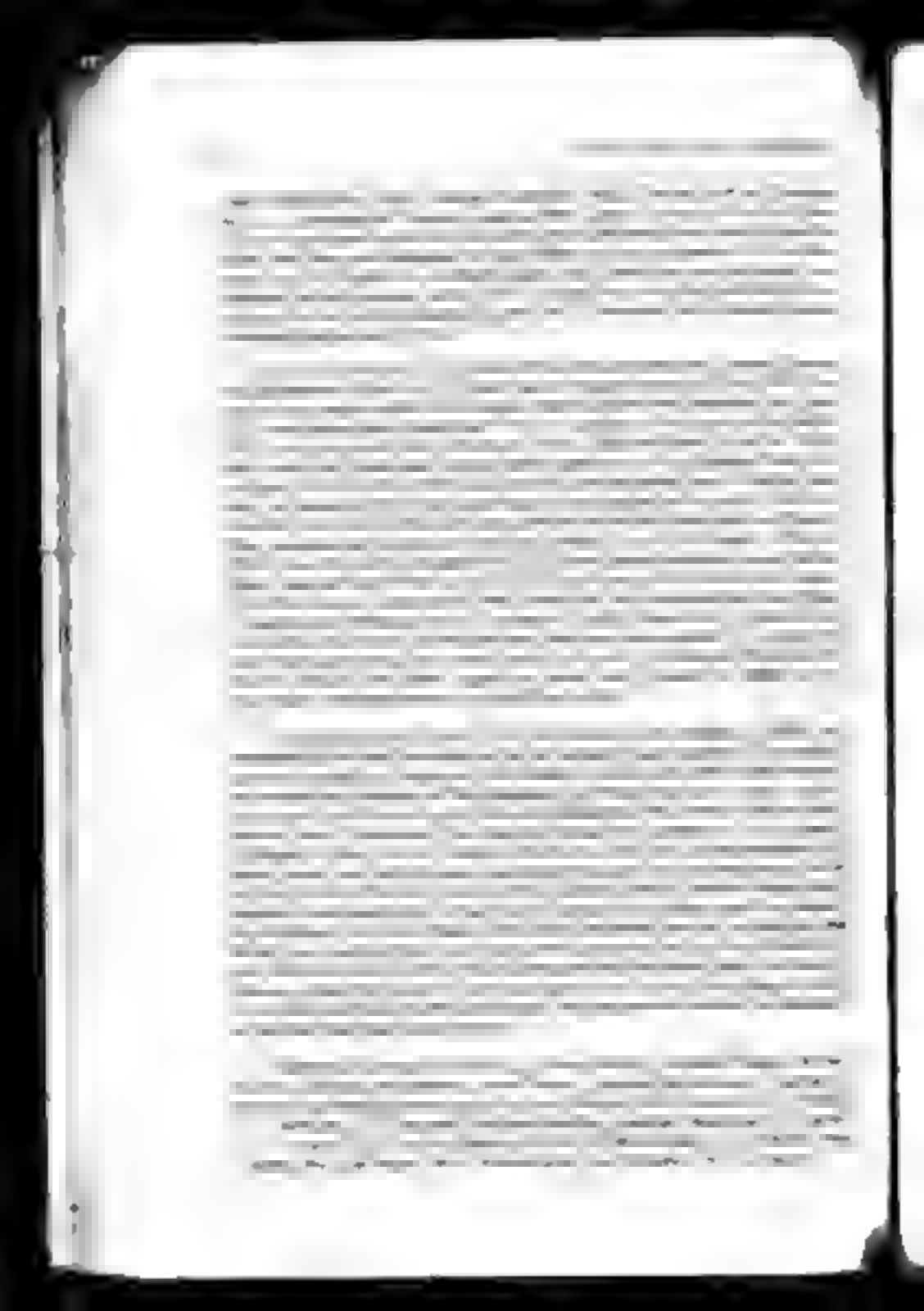
[illegible]

## [illegible] United Church

[illegible]







Elders since Union: J. L. Taylor, Earl Hendley, Fred Preuss, Bruce Preuss, James Bentham, P. C. McCutcheon, A. Boles, Wilbert Matthews, Messrs. [illegible] Dale received a call to Fullerton in 1948 having equalled the length of pastorate of Rev. John Robertson: 9 years. Barrie Hill and Speightstown called Rev. W. B. Buchanan of Bayonne, Ont. On June 5th Presbytery appointed Rev. John Ward and Rev. Dr. C. B. Kenny to induct Mr. Buchanan into the Barrie charge on July 2nd, 1948. Rev. W. C. B. Kenny presided and preached, Rev. [illegible] addressed the minister, Rev. [illegible] addressed the congregation and Rev. [illegible] addressed the elders. Mr. Buchanan was duly inducted to the charge of Barrie and [illegible] Stroud.

The congregation established at a Point at Eden Mills. The first Congregational meeting [illegible] January 1st, 1853 a member wrote that a house [illegible] church [illegible] was erected and a few days before had been opened for worship. Rev. [illegible] Denny of Nelson County had been the first pastor having served him for [illegible] months, including the Second Congregational [illegible] a quadrangle and a Rev. [illegible] Brewer of Guelph was in 1853 also [illegible] Rev. [illegible] Denny was a great great uncle of my wife. It is true that we lived in Halton County but it was on the town line between Nelson and Wellington [illegible] beyond the Churchill [illegible] Church, formerly [illegible] Congregational or U.[illegible] Presbyterian.

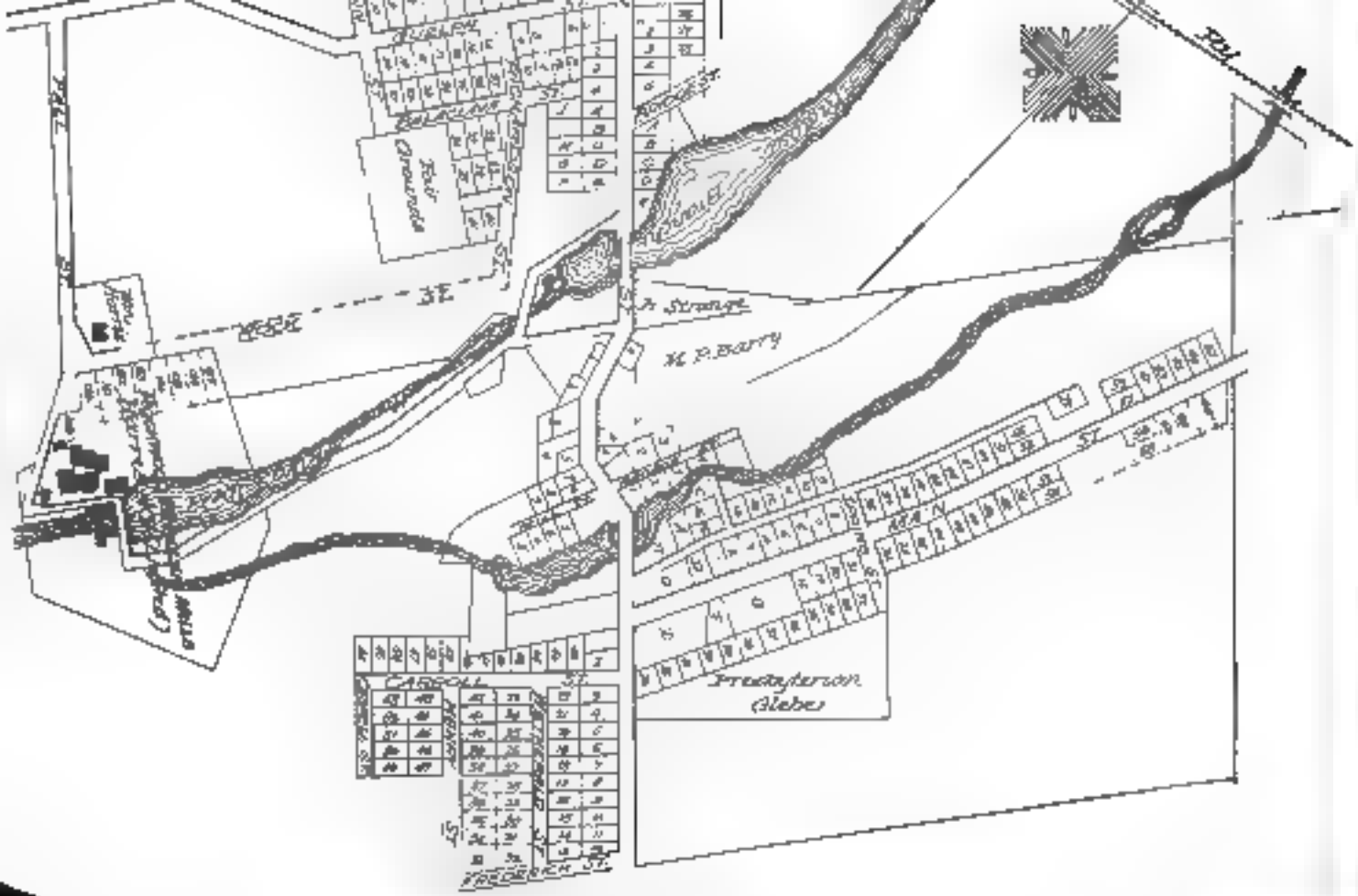
From the issue of February 21st, 1946: Right Hon. Sir Lyman P. Duff, 78 years old, chief justice of Canada who has often acted frequently for Governors-General of Canada [illegible] for six torrential days was within an inch of all the powers and prerogatives of the King's personal representative in Canada as Administrator of the Government.

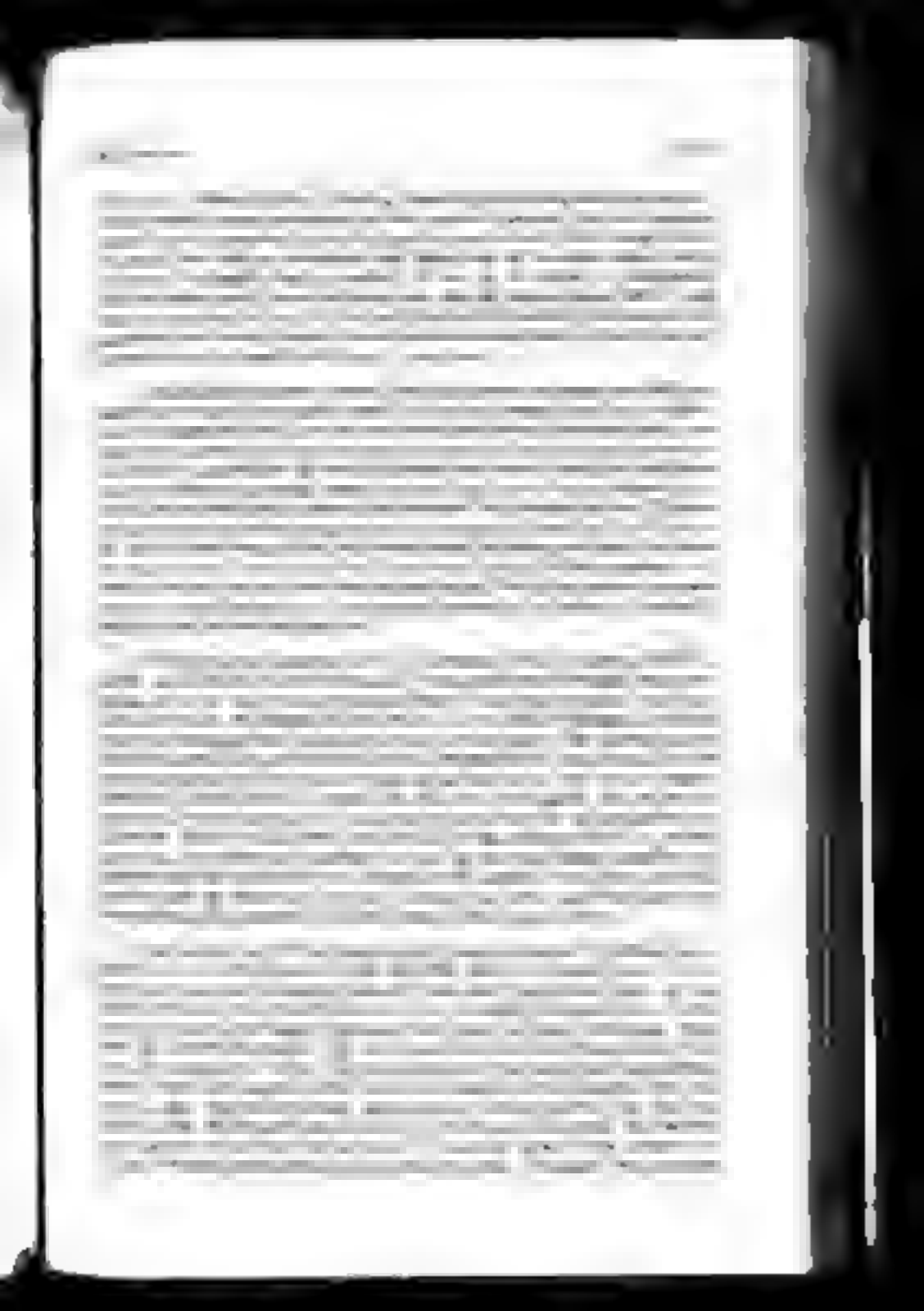
In a solemn ceremony enacted at the residence of Sir Lyman and in the presence of Prime Minister Mackenzie King, the Chief Justice late this evening repeated the same solemn oaths which the late Governor-General, Lord Tweedsmuir took when he came to Ottawa on Nov. 2nd, 1935. The [illegible] took place three hours after Lord Tweedsmuir's death in a Montreal hospital.

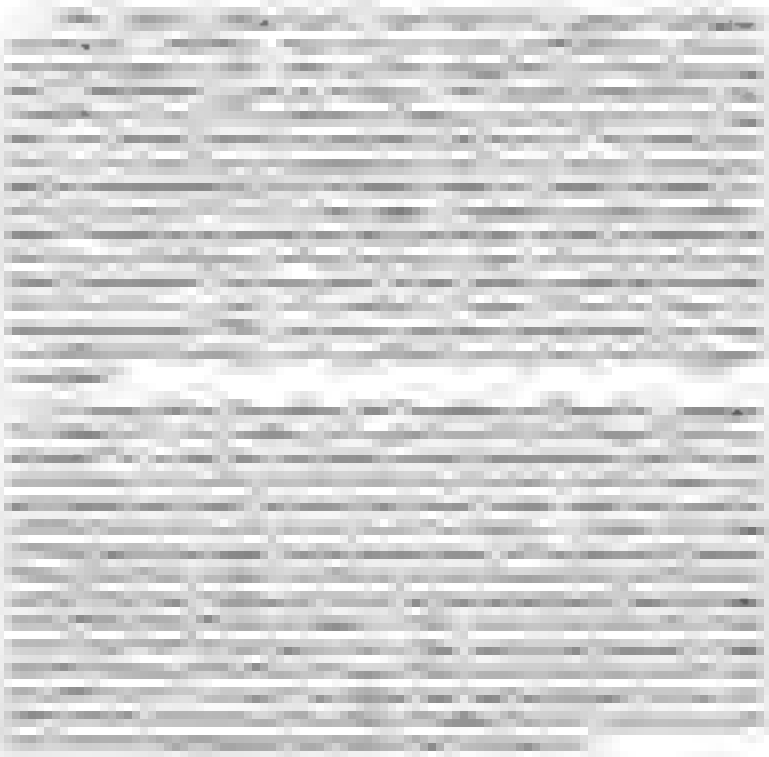
# Rock[illegible]

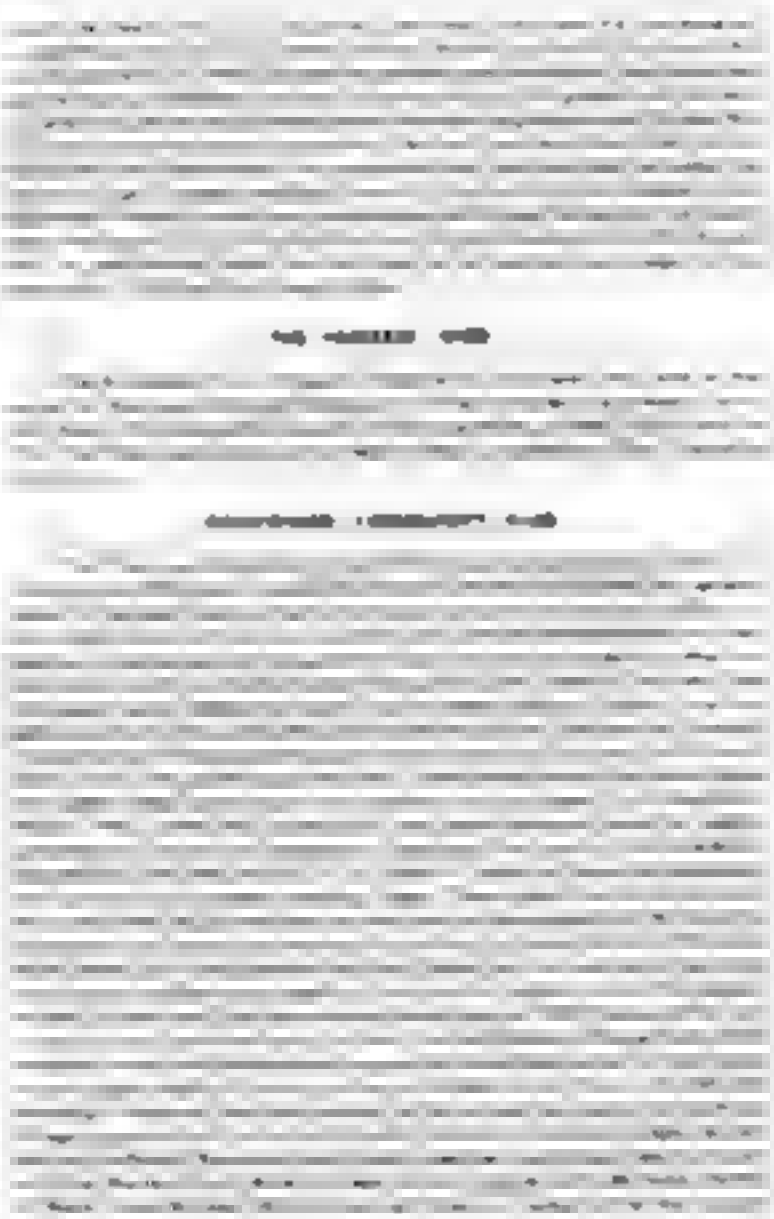
# VILLAGE OF ROCKWOOD

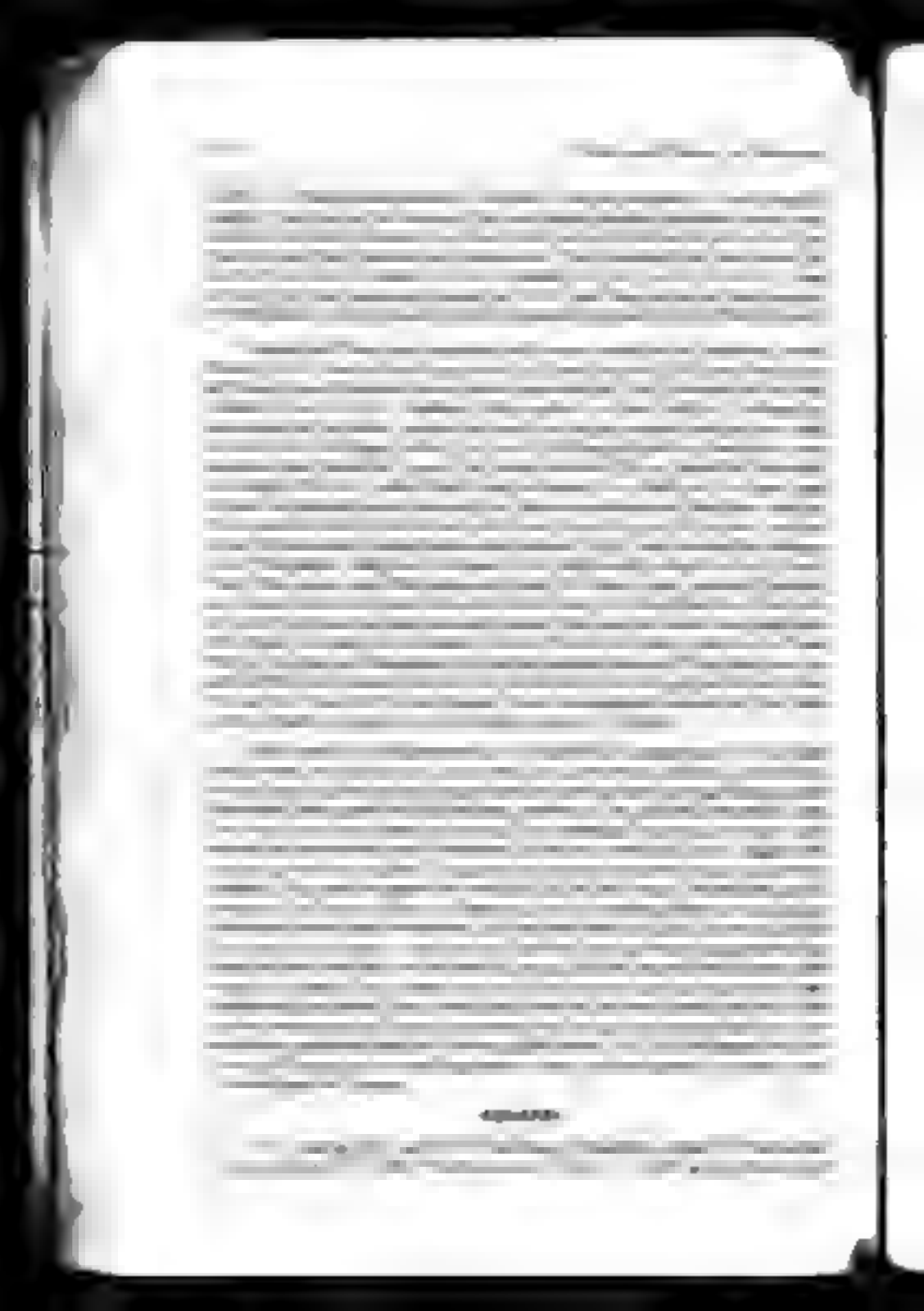
Township of Eramosa


Fair Grounds
Presbyterian (Glebe)

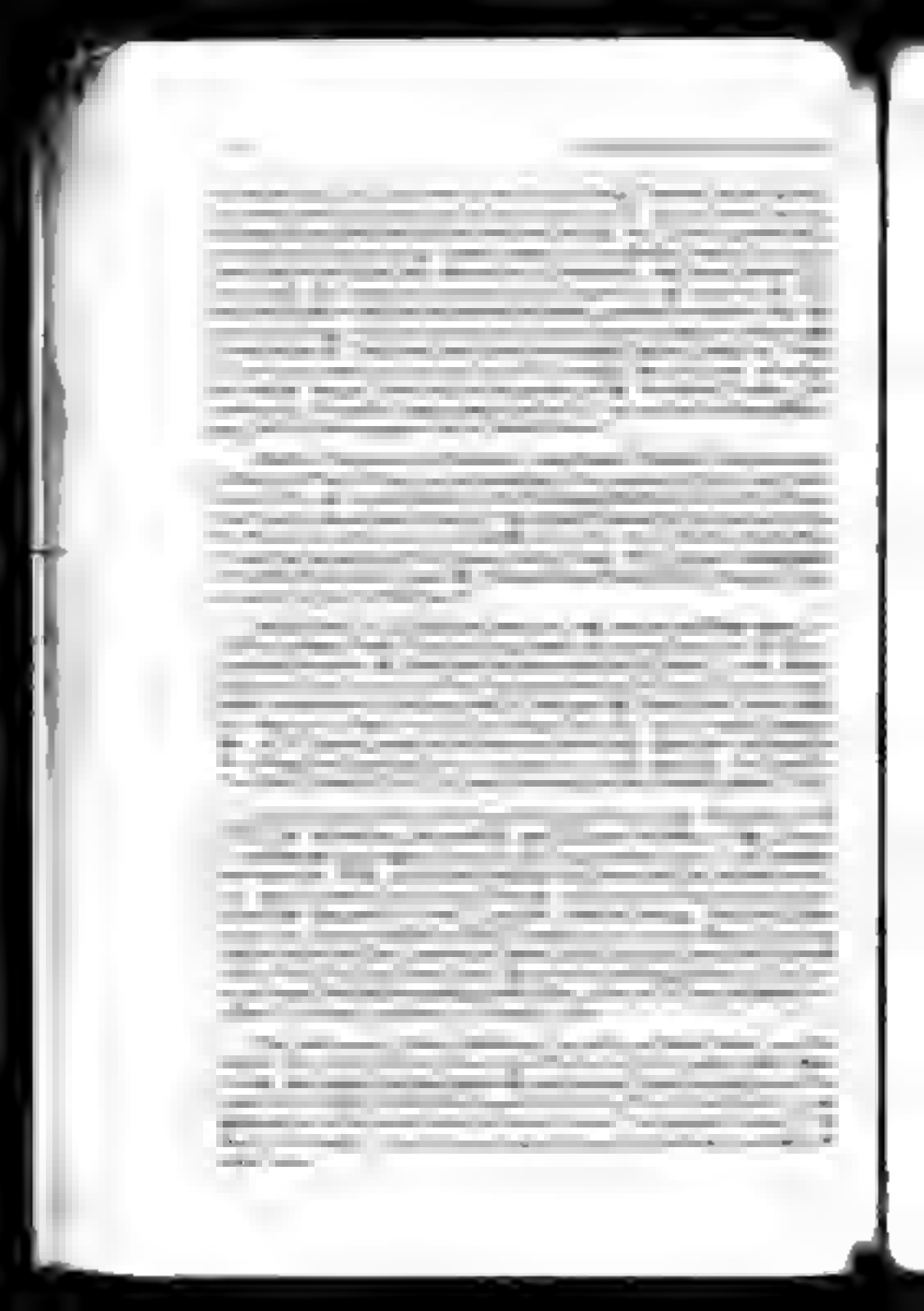








The Railway Viadu[illegible] at Rockwood built in 85[illegible]



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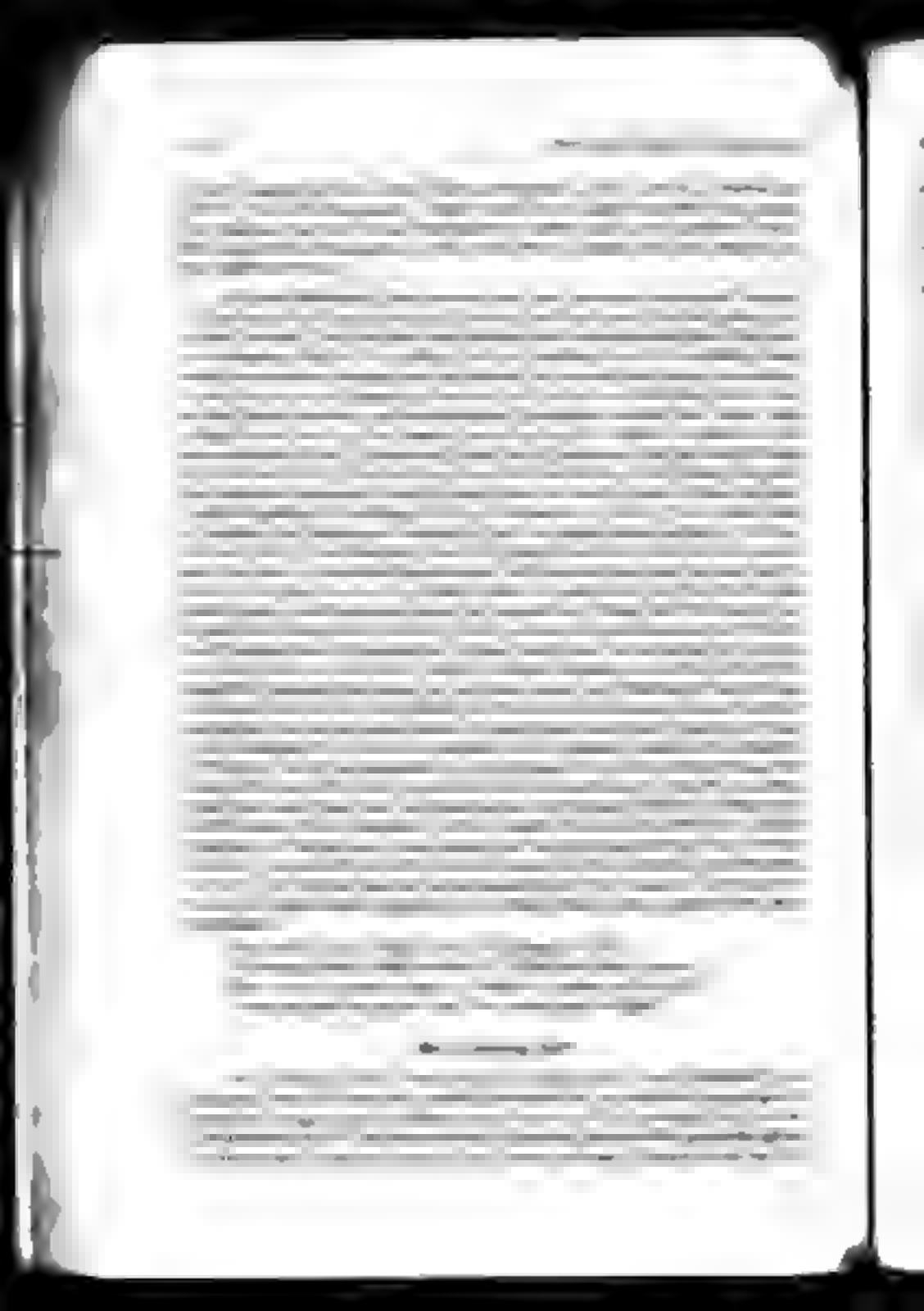

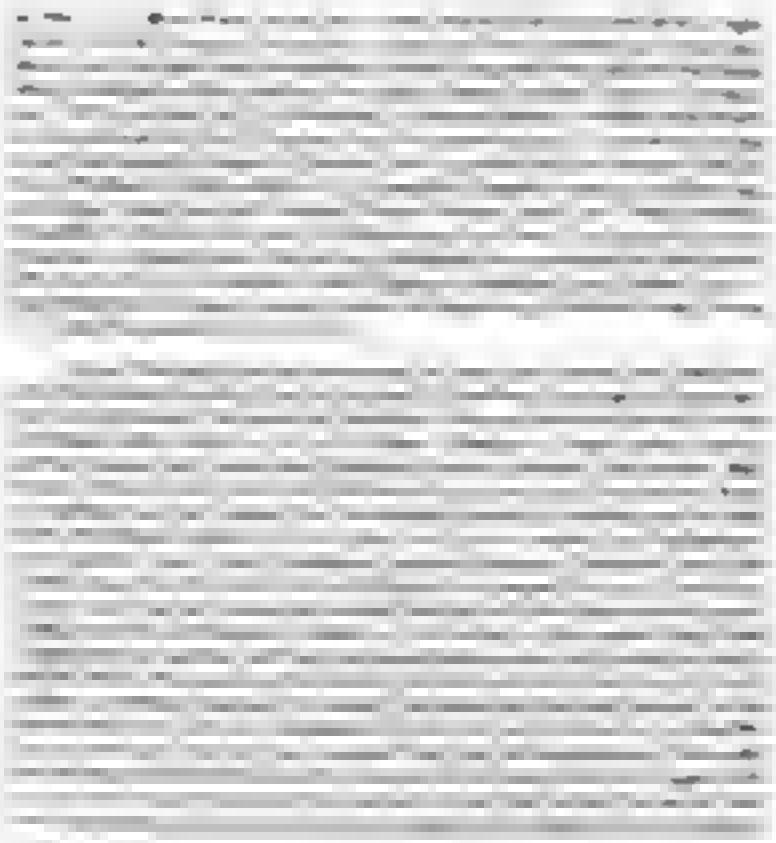

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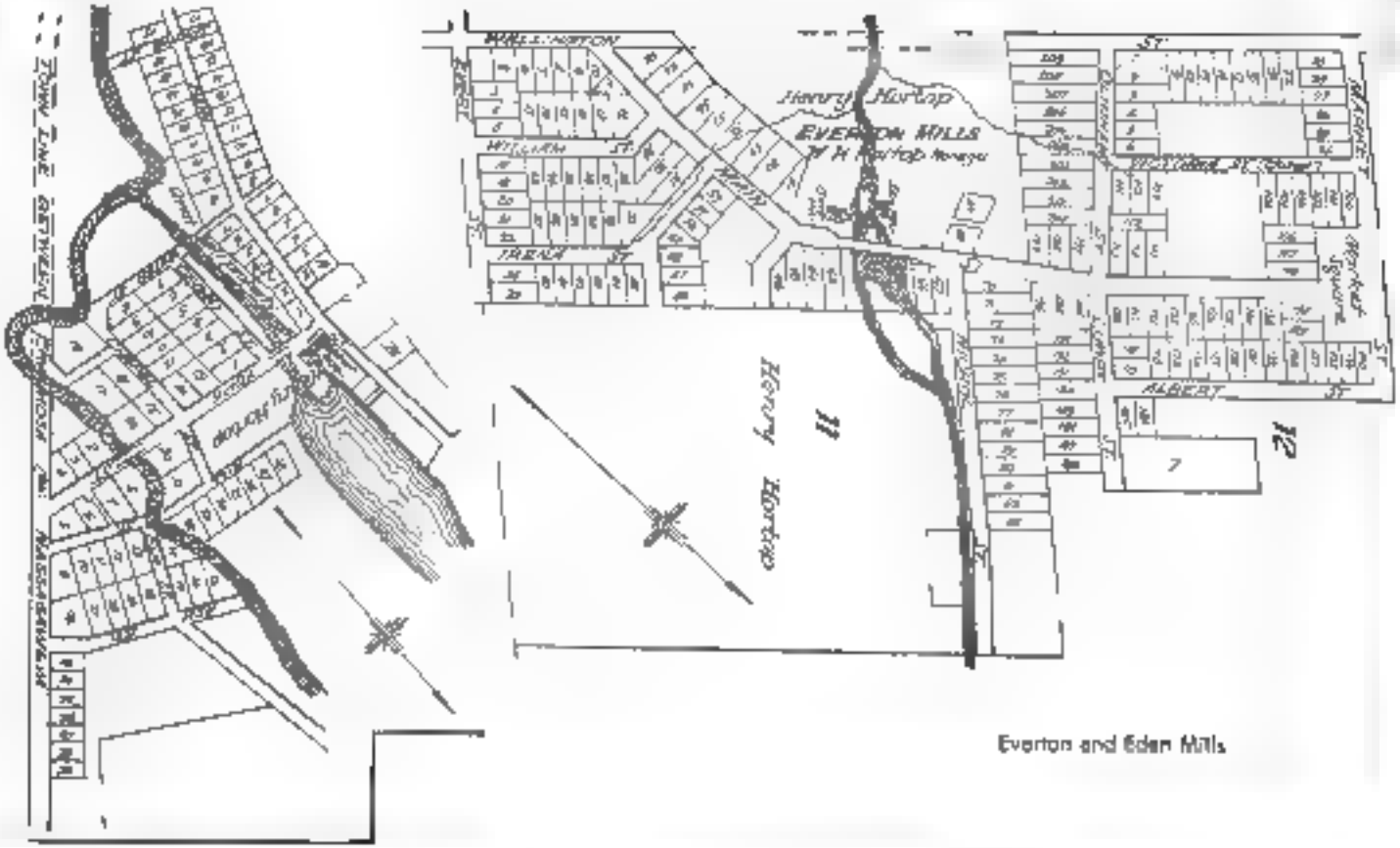



Everton and Eden Mills

## [illegible]

### [illegible]

[illegible]

# Eden Mills

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

## [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

## Granite Mutual Fire Insurance Company

## Rockwood and Ogata Telephone Co

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

## [illegible] Little Green Church

[illegible]

[illegible]

## [illegible]

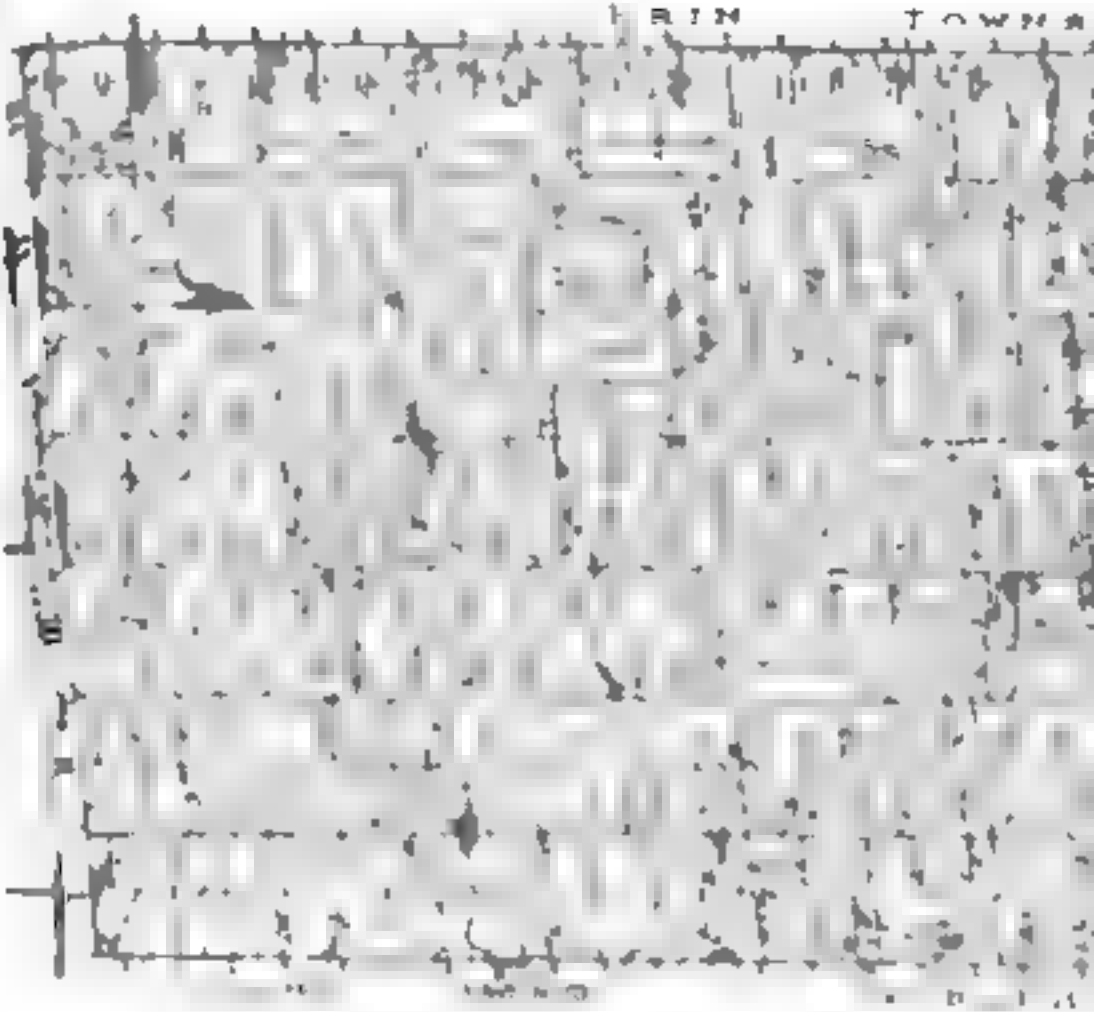
[illegible]

## [illegible]

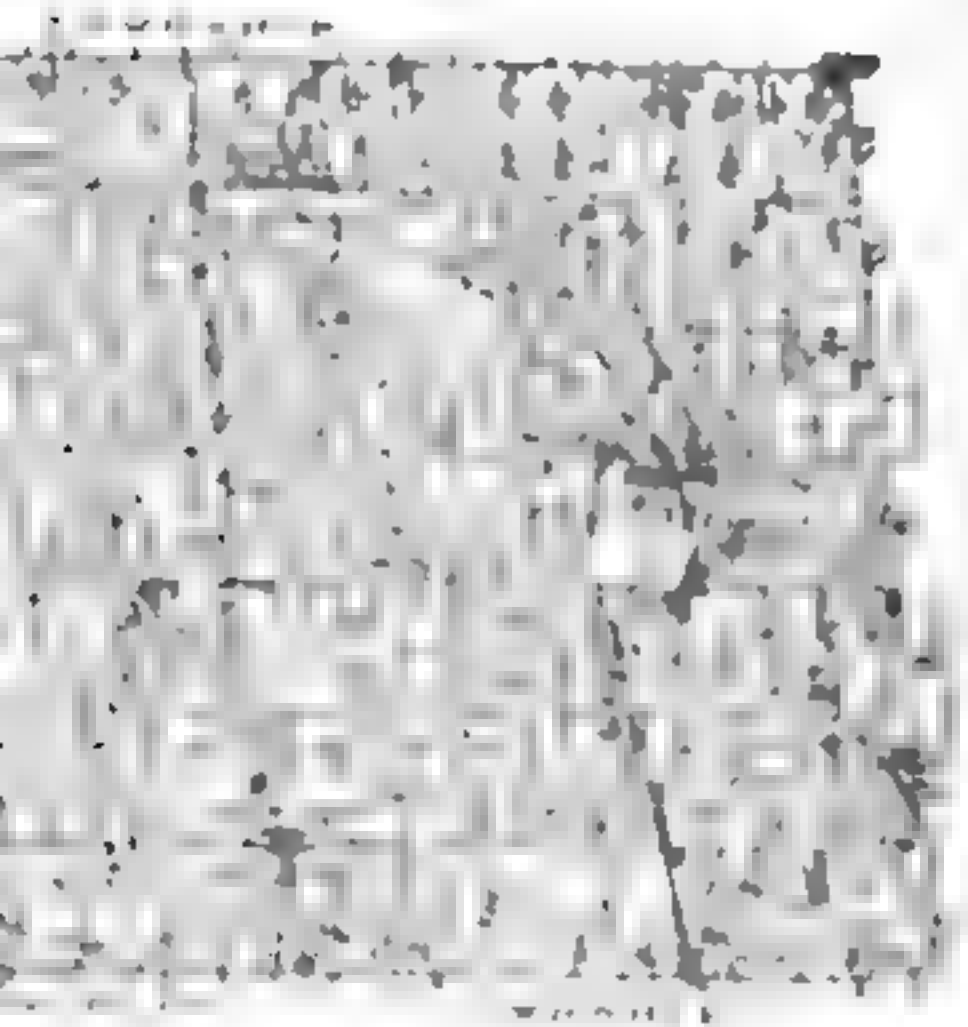
[illegible]

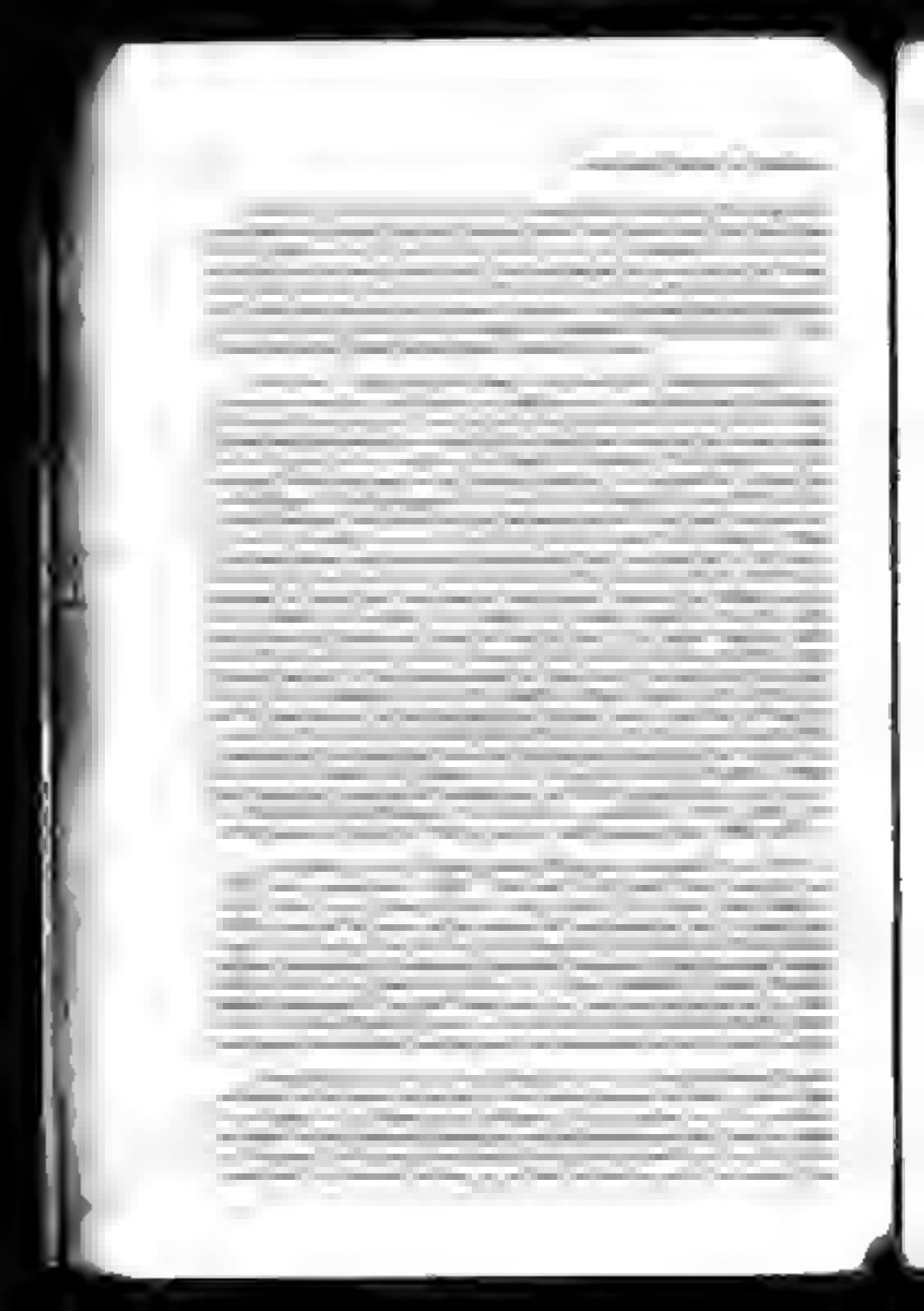
## [illegible] und [illegible]

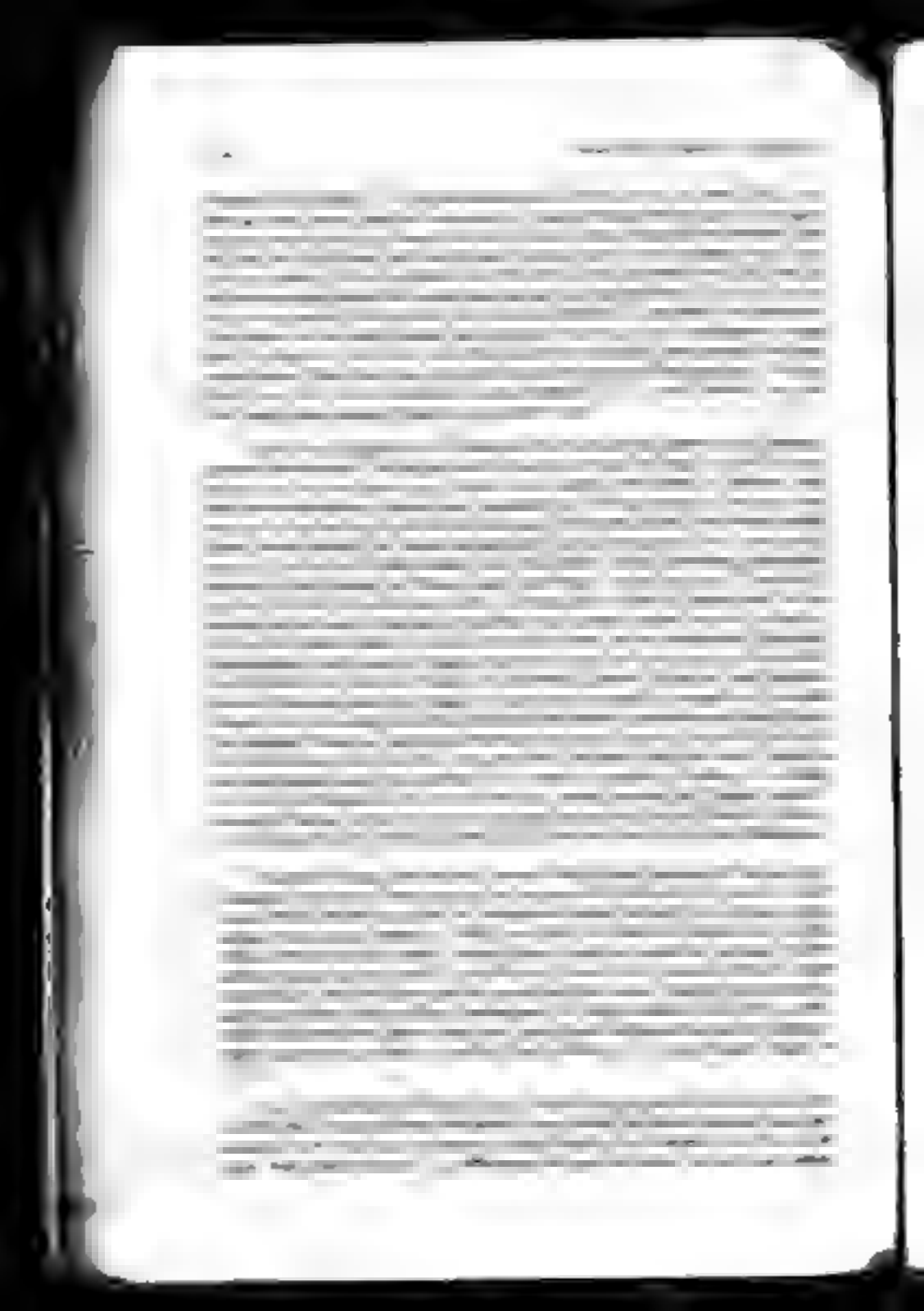
[illegible]



ERAMOSA







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[illegible]

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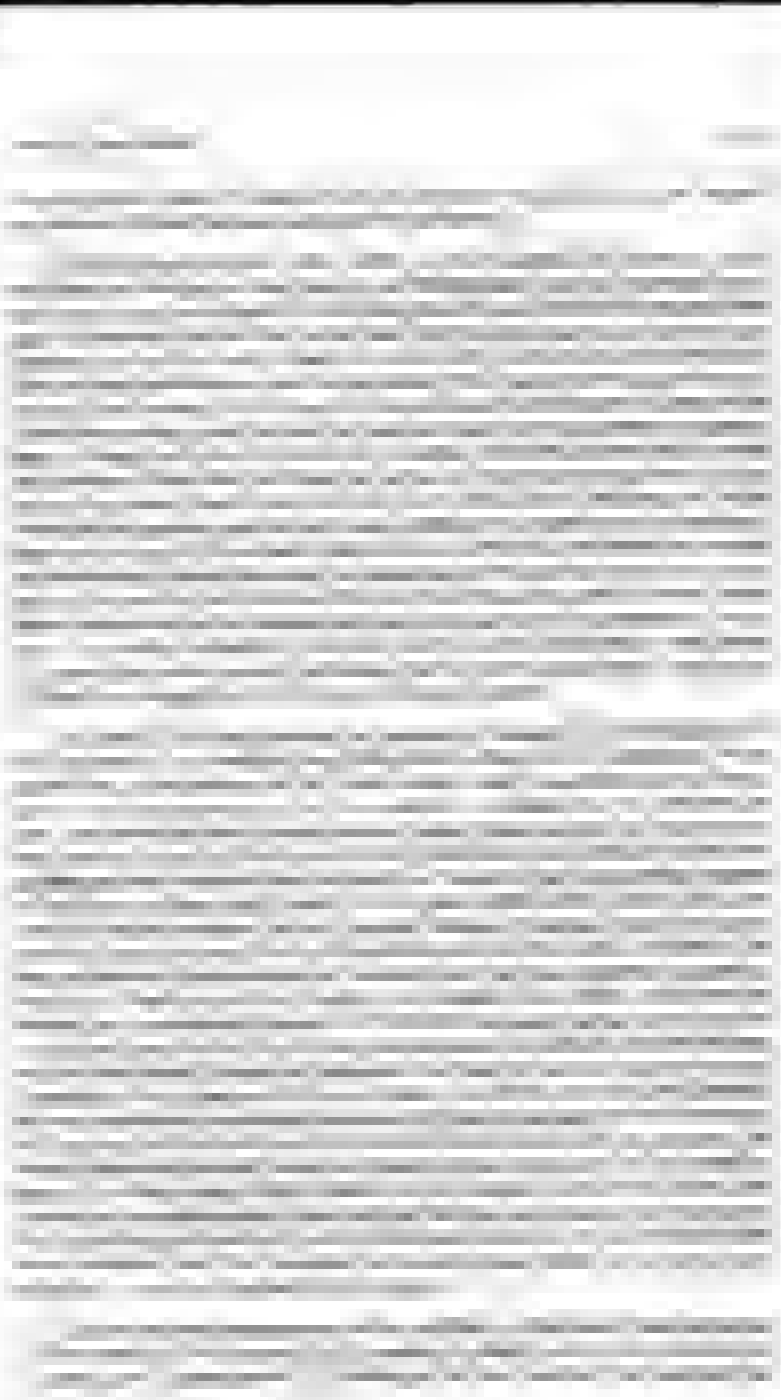
[illegible]

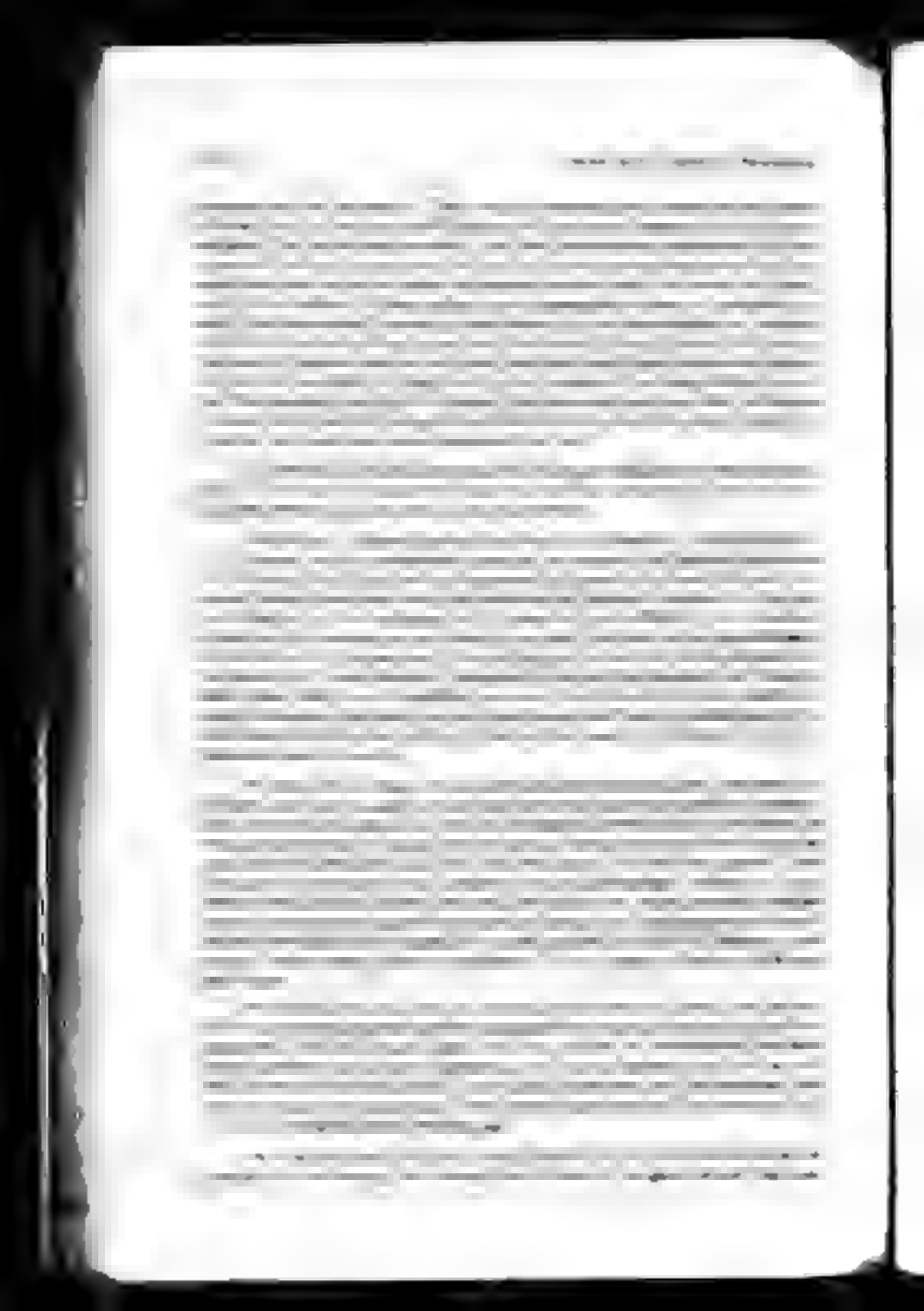
## [illegible]

[illegible]

## The Problem

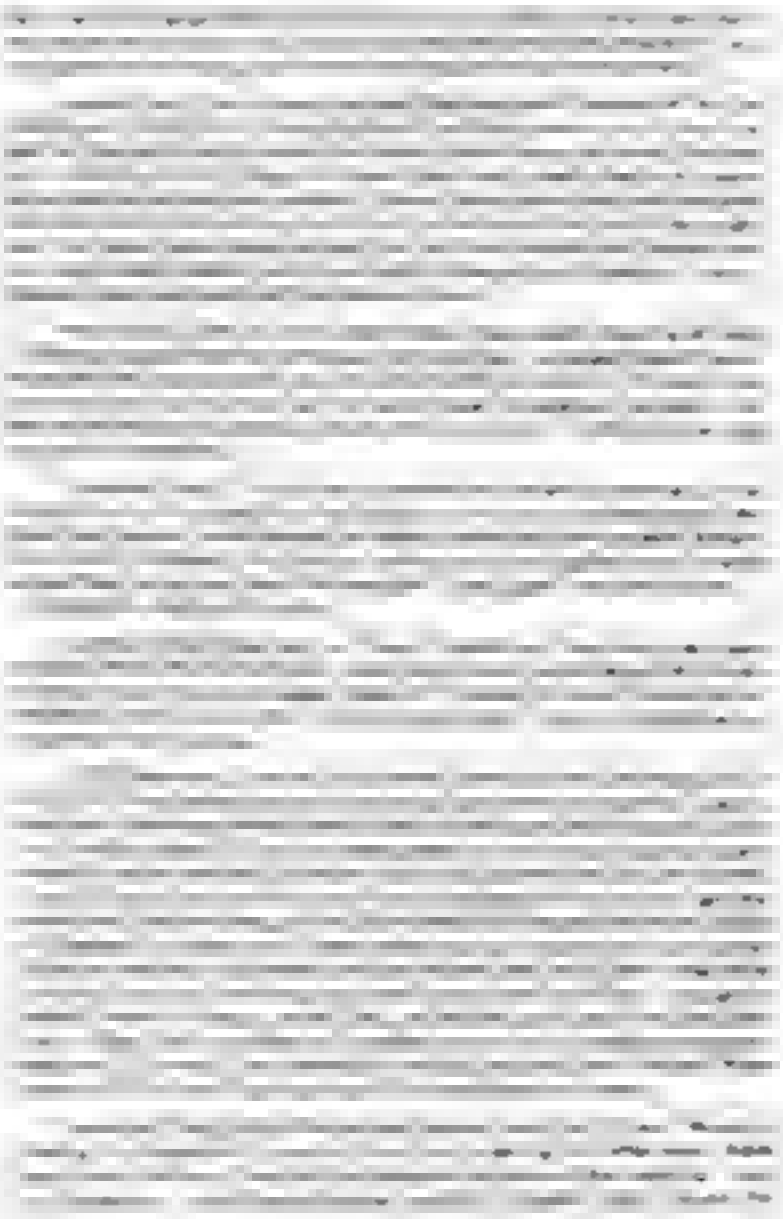
## The Solution

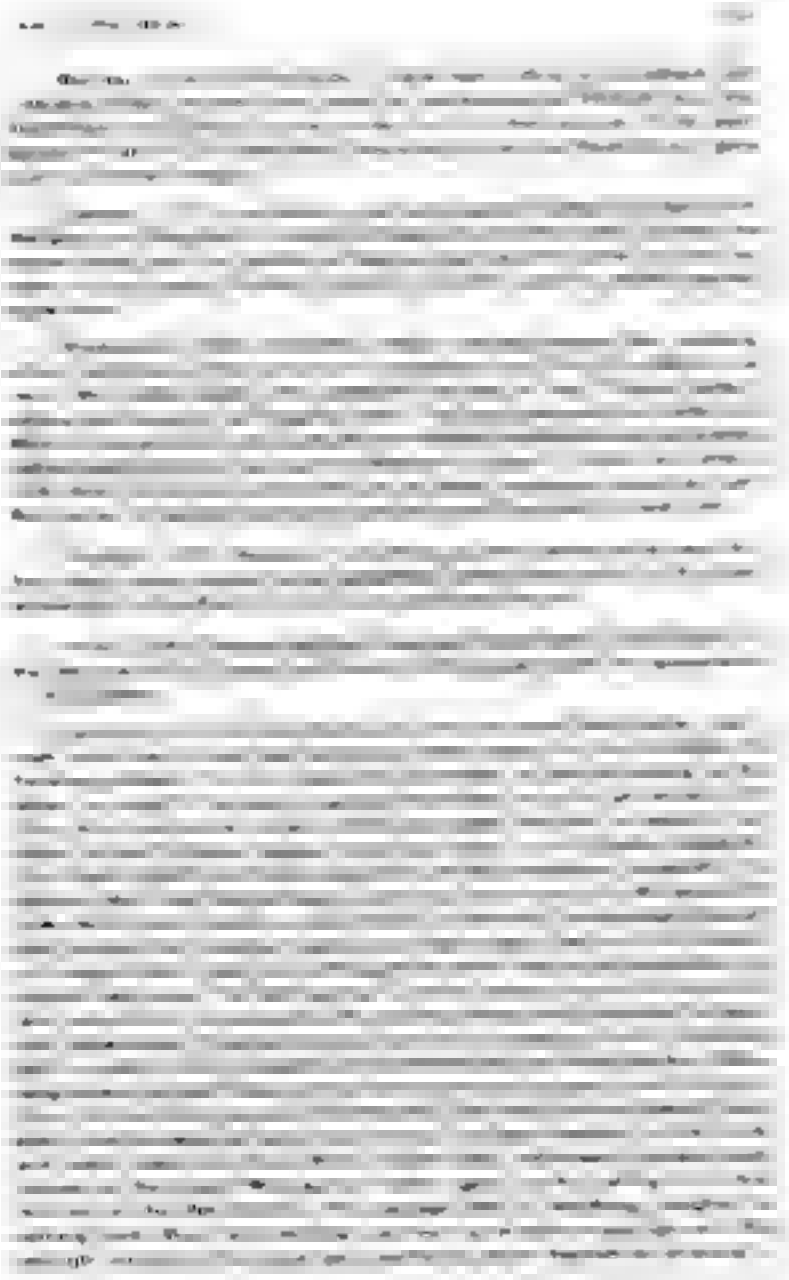




[illegible] and he held that [illegible] of the highest kind was the most [illegible] of [illegible] of the simplest pleasures of today. He [illegible] that [illegible] not by the bandit of patriotic [illegible] to increase the prestige and enhance the reputation of the [illegible] but by the [illegible] and [illegible] of [illegible] and a servant [illegible] that [illegible] the highest [illegible] achieved.

[illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]





and [illegible] in all $7.83 paid by cheque for $9.00 [illegible] left a balance for me.

Tuesday [illegible] froze up again last night and it is very slippy and dangerous to walk over the [illegible] walked up to the [illegible] this morning [illegible] of a pair of [illegible] to see if they would [illegible] walked over to [illegible] and [illegible] a letter to [illegible] South [illegible]

## A Pioneer Family

Having planted the seeds which grew the first apple trees in the county of Wellington is part of the interesting story of the pioneer family of John and Esther Ramsey.

In [illegible] John Ramsey in company with two brothers, Robert and [illegible] from north of Ireland to the State of New York [illegible] to settle in Upper Canada [illegible] York, now Toronto, [illegible] of the new settlement.

[illegible]

[illegible]

In the spring of [illegible] the three brothers provided themselves with [illegible] and again [illegible] to the [illegible] which [illegible] home.

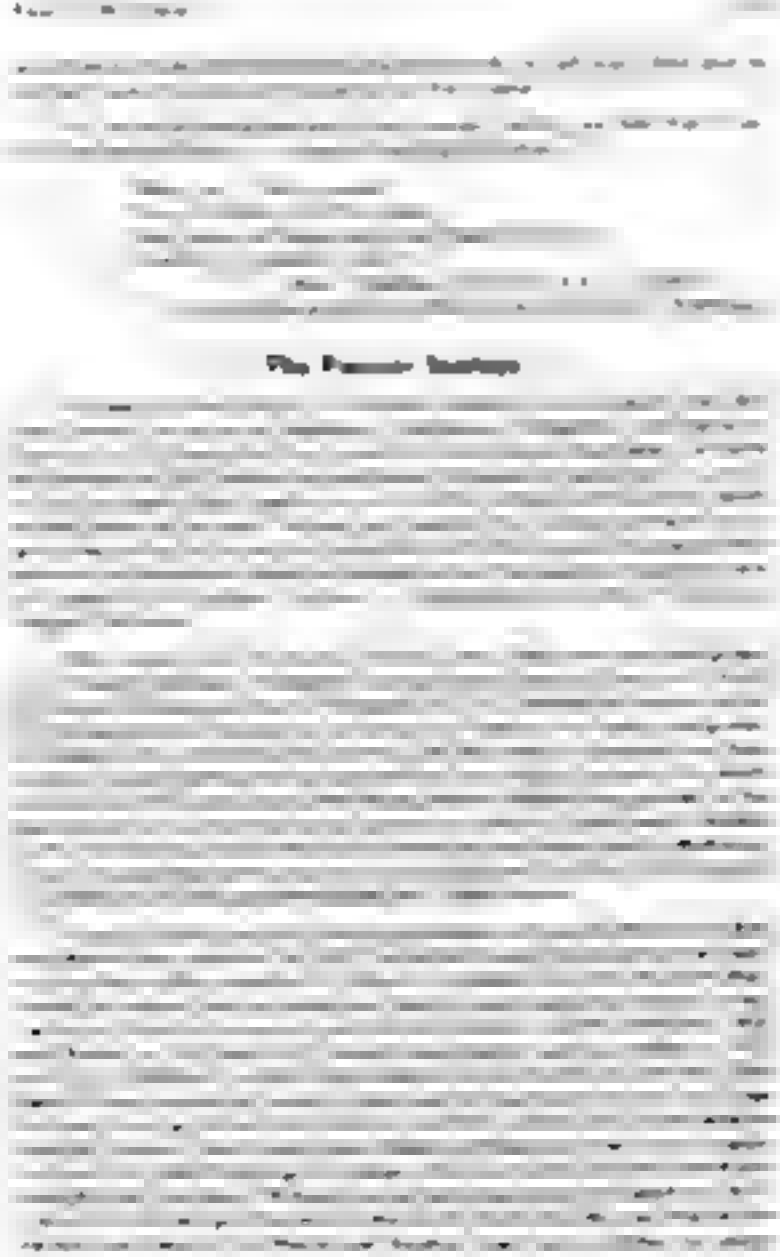
[illegible] Ramsey [illegible] a [illegible] which served them as a dwelling [illegible] years.

[illegible] Ramsey [illegible] the daughter of his [illegible] After the wedding [illegible] with her husband for their wilderness home. Mrs. Ramsey [illegible] that [illegible] is reported to have been the first [illegible] in the county of Wellington.

From apples served at their wedding breakfast Mrs. Ramsey saved a few seeds which she planted. From these seeds grew the first apple trees grown in the county of Wellington.

Mrs. John Ramsey (Rachel Cleaver) first white woman settler in Eramosa

JOHN REA
"Father of the Council"



[illegible]

## The Woodbrough Family

[illegible]

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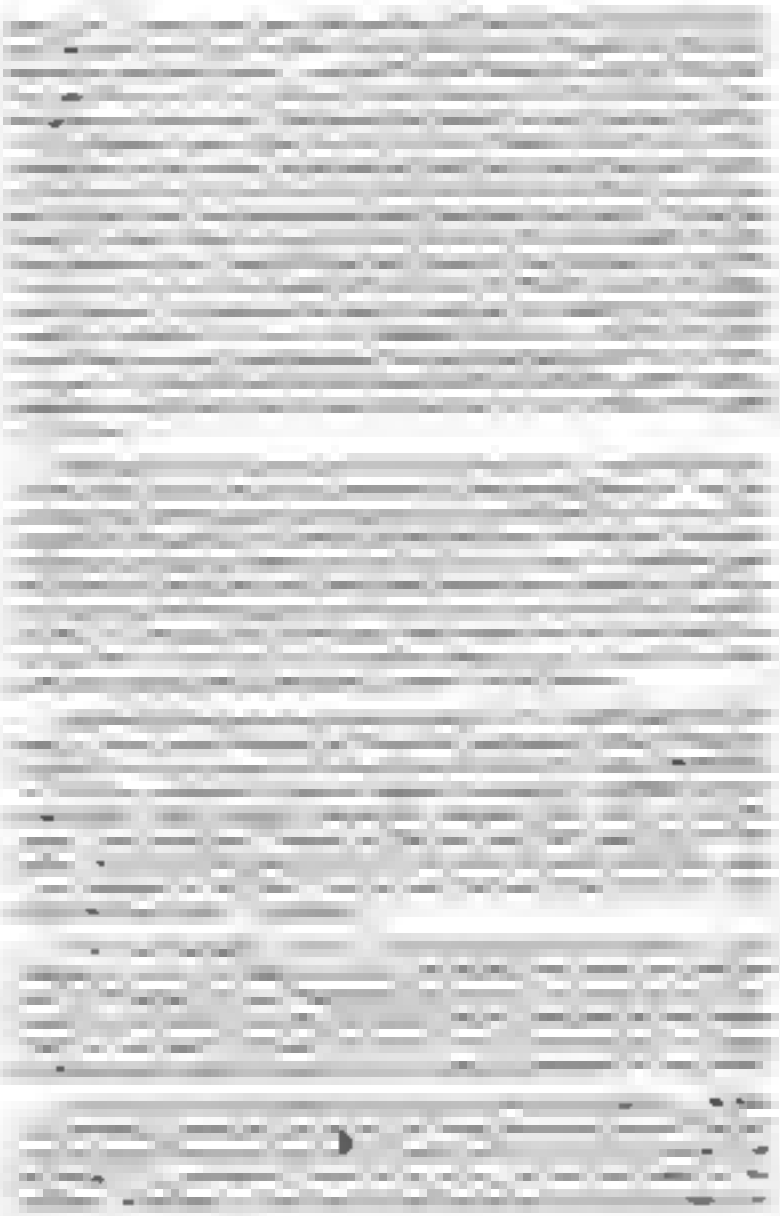

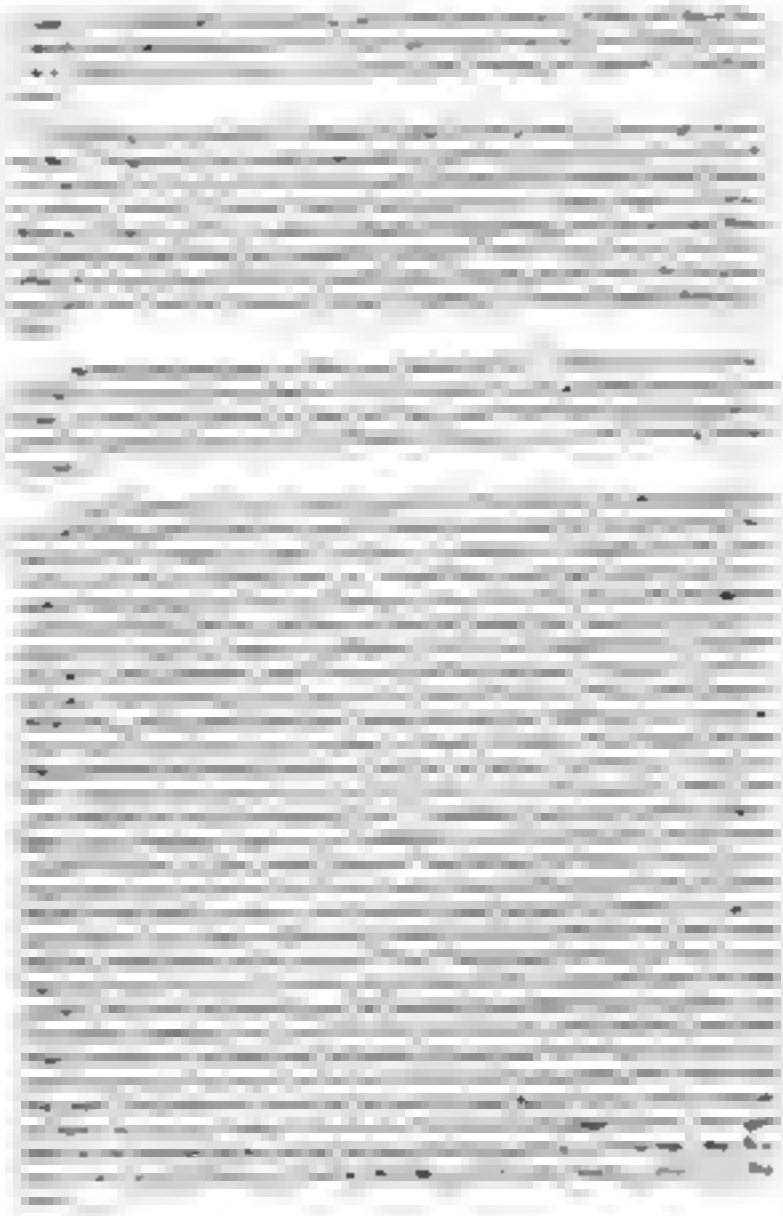

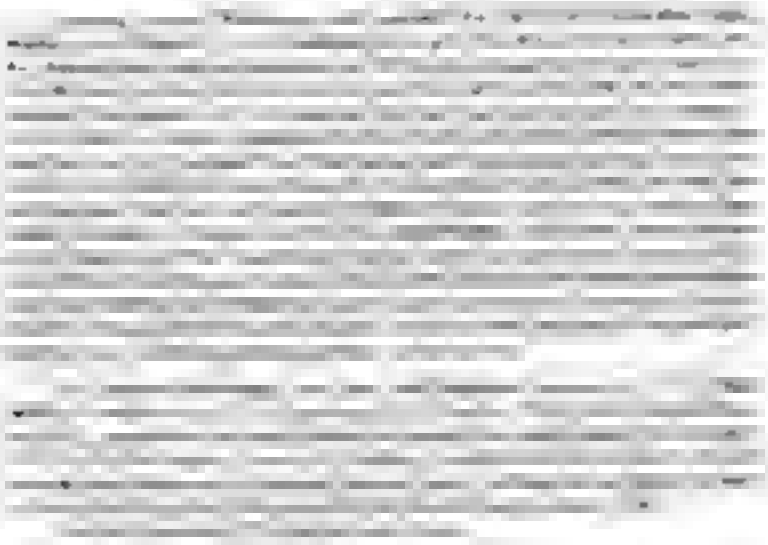

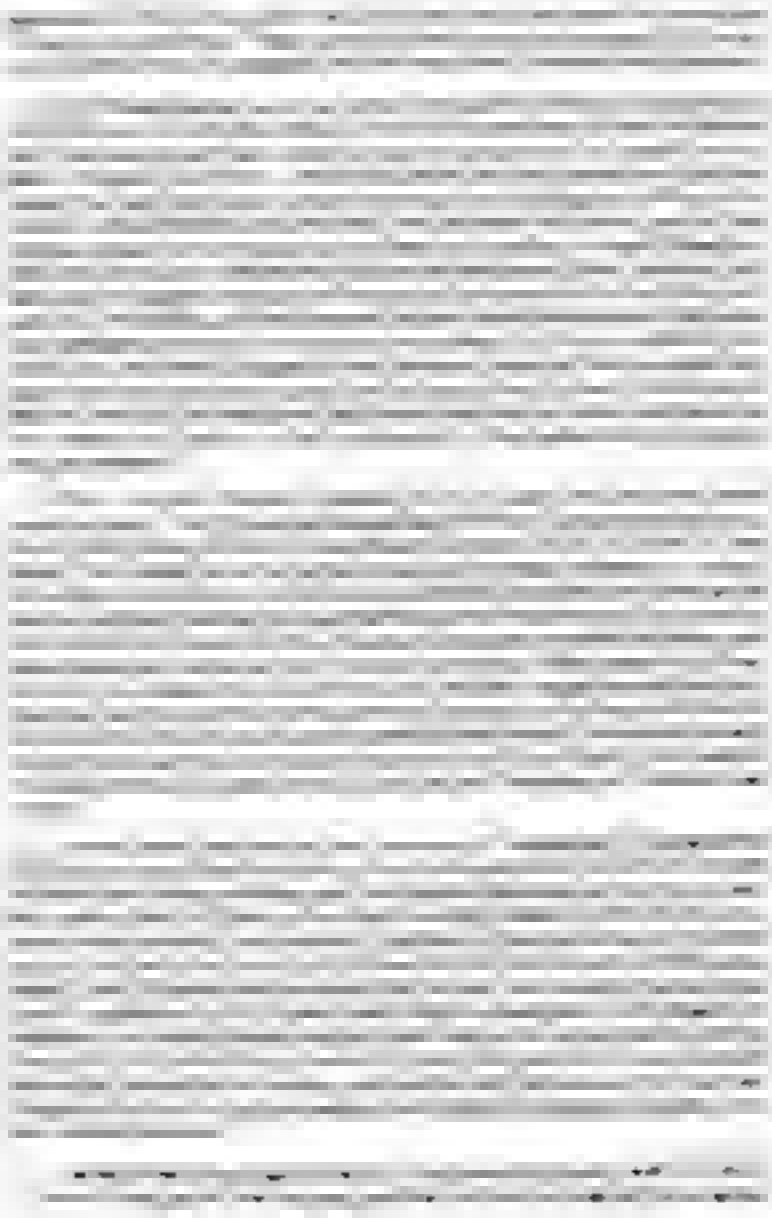

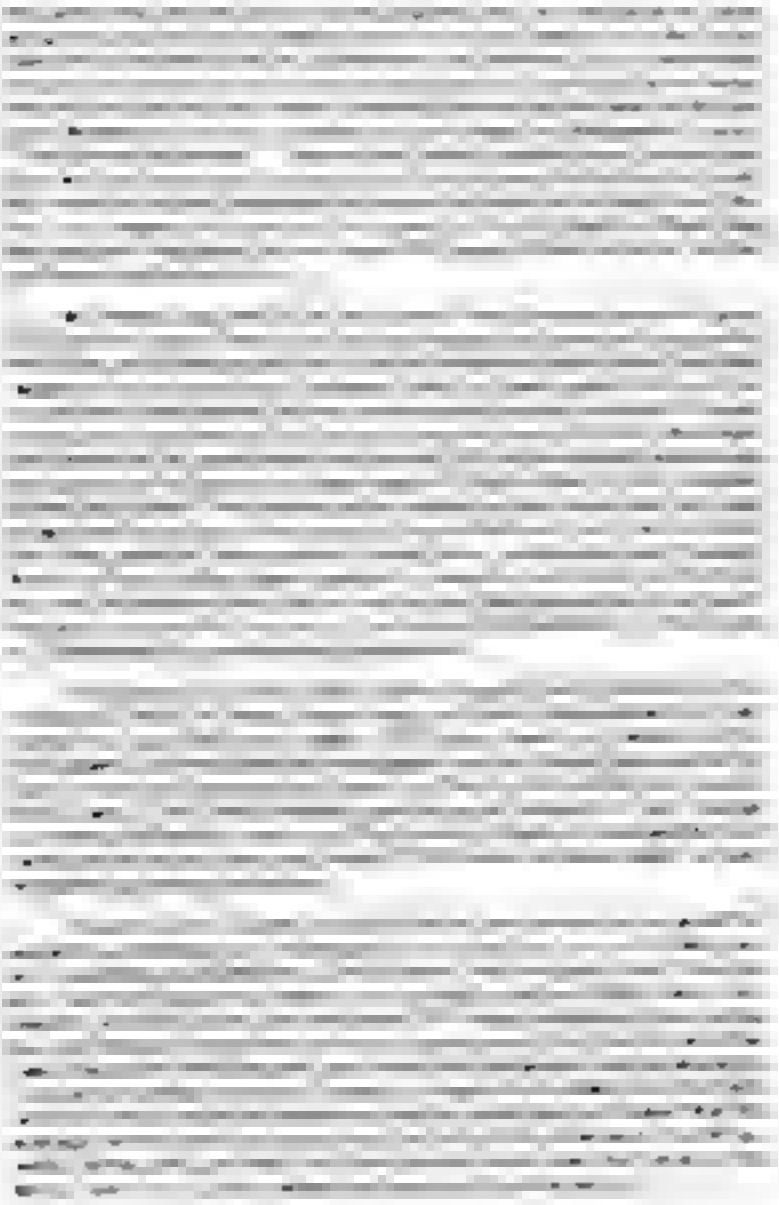

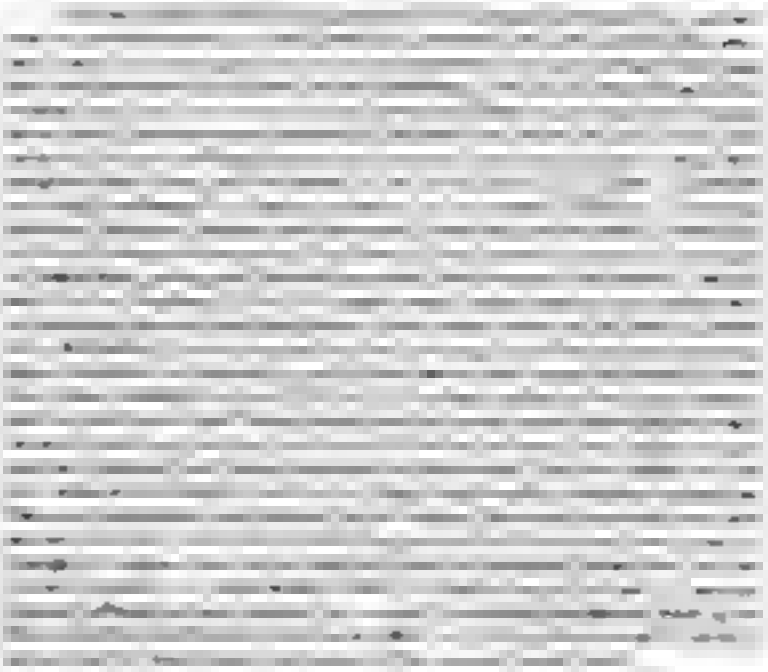

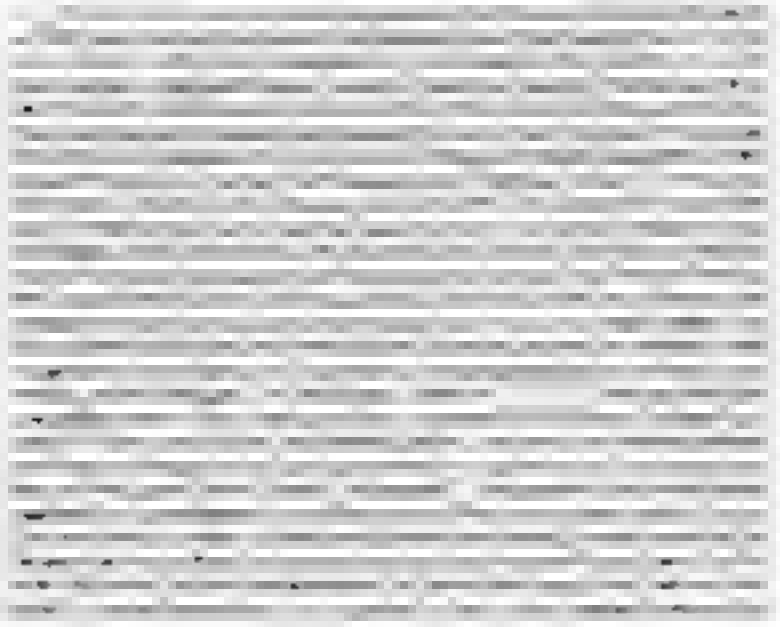

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**A few citizens or descendants of citizens of Dunvegan who have become prominent elsewhere.**

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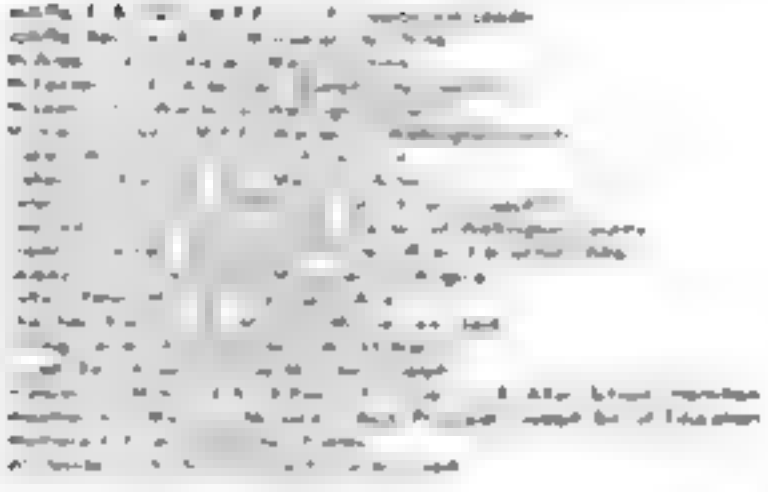

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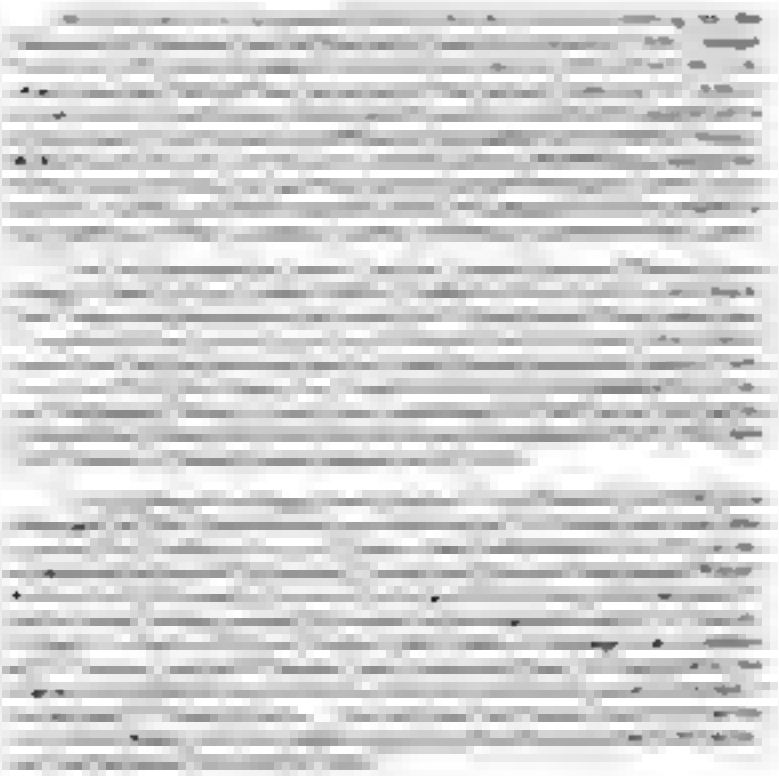

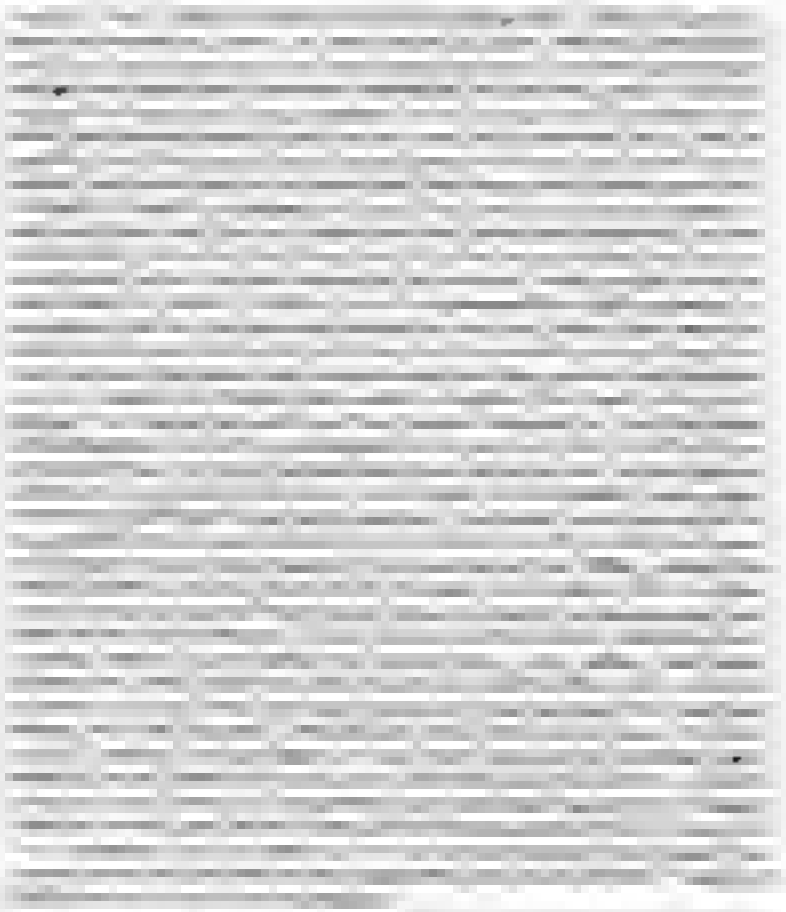

internal injuries. He lingered, mostly in an unconscious state, until the following Saturday when he died. He was succeeded in January 1868 by James Ross of Cummock who vacated the office of Crown Lands Agent at $1000 to $1200 per annum in order to become M.P.

Periodically, Guelph must be a scary place in which to live, with Eramosa rebels ready to pounce on it in 1836, and Rockwood Orangemen looking for battle infesting the place in 1856. The Railway Company rather than Eramosa, is blamed for the death of Dr. Parker M.P. in 1867 but it is duly recorded that a sick Rockwood child was indirectly responsible.

Eramosa still persists in plaguing Guelph or sections thereof in 1949. In the Dominion election, Harry A. Hosking, an Eramosa boy, carried off the honours, while another Rockwood boy, Chas. F. Lapman, ran as C.C.F. candidate. Ed. Jolliffe of Rockwood, the Provincial C.C.F. leader is also considered a pest by many of Guelph's leading citizens.

# INDEX


Page

Addison 74 138
Academy 4
Across Four Acres 70
Adam 5 56 74 77 6
Adams 38 73
Allen 78
Allen 4
Anderson 8
Anglican 64
Anglo 4 79
Argyll 68
Armour 97
Armstrong 1 8 30 38 62 86
92 93
Ascension 70
Ash 4
Allen 80
Avery 78 79
Ayles 96

Babcock 71
Baldwin 13
Barker 91
Barrie 56 57 75 83 86 87
89 9
Barrie Hall 91
Barry 48 74
Bates 68
Baugh 70 72
Bayne 57 6
Beattie 8
Beaumont 12
Beck 27
Bell 85
Bethune 4 8 9 32 66 71 87
92 94 98
Birks 82
Bernard 70 73
Bethel 137
Bethune 32
Bethune 70
Bethune 84
Bingham 61 9
Black 3 7 8 9 9 24 32 33
36, 37 48, 5 89 90 93 141
Blue Ouens 32
Bolton 94

Book 76
Bowes 75
Brand 83
Brethagan 47 75
Bridal 64 71 75 93
Brotherstown 96 150
Brown 93
Browning 7
Bryden 87
Buchanan 38
Bull 70
Burlingham 67
Burns 26 32 11 35 57 58
Burt 79
Burtcher 6 86 79
Byerly 6 89 96

Callaghan 48 73
Cameron 38
Campbell 79
Carr 118
Carter 8
Carlton 99
Casper 77
Campbell 83
Cayton 87
Chandler 84
Chapman 138
Chase 44 93 99
Chevrolet 90
Chipman 5
Church 80
Clark 79
Clarkson 84
Cleland 97 84 84
Cleaver 71 73
Clemens 53 54
Cooper 82
Copeland 137
Corbett 53
Cowling 125
Crawford 77
Crawford 11
Cree 48 74 78 81
Craig 83
Crampton 56
Crawford 13

Page

Carnegie 86
Carpet 9
Castle 84
Cathedral 6
Cemetery 6
Century 30

Dale 61 87 88 97 94
Dancer 13
Dancing 79 84 87 78
Day 4 35 36 60 61 64
Deadly 61
Decay 92
Decorative 94
Dictionary 82
Dirty 84
Dress 7
Dumb 89 89
Dynasty 74
Dictionary 95
Downhill 74
Dressmaker 94 84
Dummy 78
Dungeon 59
Dutch-master 4 68 90 30
Dynamite 84 30
Dyspepsia 30 1 56 58 60
Daft 5 93 94 95
Daffodil 3 8 28 34
Dumber 31 34 37 35 73
Duncan 80
Dunbar 82
Dyer 82

Table 84
Tailor Made 30
Telephone 42
Tibet 60 61 68 94
Tortoise 77
Tremble Maker 33
Trees 84
Trenton 30
Trunk 4 35 37

Ugo 79 83
Umbrella Stand 69
Uniform Plain 78
Turn 77
Turner 31 37

Page

Varnish 34
Vestigial 74
Vestibule 29
Vicissitudes 77
Victim 6 140
Vocal 61
Vomitor 7
Vomitus 55
Vacation 34
Vulcan 66 68
Vacuum 94
Valley 78

Gardener 87
Gathering 88
Gaudy 84
Gazette 93
Gibb 73 177
Gibbons 68 74
Gibbon 78
Gallantman 83
Gleaner 74
Gladden 71
Glasses 61
Gazelle 61 63
Gleaner 82
Gravel 94
Gradual 43 78
Grave 75 6 77 79 80 135 44 78
Gradually 84
Grey 4 8 9 10 58 63 64 77 79 79

Gangrene 31
Garage 4
Gaelic 179
Gaudy 127
Guide 86

Hall 36, 78
Handsome 5 7 72 77
Hanger 84
Hare 5 26 32 33 34 35 36 39 60 63 86 84 96 97
Harvested 83
Head 121
Hellebore 86
Heather 93
Hewer 80

Hill 24, 26, 33, 36, 53, 56, 69
Hindley 3, 36, 76, 79, 94
Hodgkinson 84
Hopkins 84
Hastings 25, 27
Hastings 37, 59, 60, 61, 77
Hunt 94, 96
Hutchinson 4
Hyndman 79

Industry 0
Ingles 35
Inglis 3

Jennings 76, 77, 78, 79
Jones 123
Johnston 52, 55, 62, 68, 91, 97
Jolliffe 23, 46, 59, 6, 53
Jones 188

Kay 87
Keys 79
Keen 26
Kehoe 48, 74
Kellerman 72
Kelly 84
Kenny 95
Kerr 178
Kilgour 29, 34
Kilpatrick 87
Kingsbury 36
Kinnear 53
Kirkhang 58, 60, 66
Knight 8
Knowles 70, 73, 75, 96
Kyles 28, 89, 93

Laight 79
Lamp 37
Lawrence 96
Lennon 3, 80, 84
Lee 69, 70
Leslie 4, 9, 73, 76, 77, 8, 33
Lilly 87
Linfoot 73
Lister 70, 7, 73, 96
Little 38, 59, 60, 6, 87, 94, 96
Livingstone 71
Lloyd 96

Loughran 8, 94
Lucas 32, 83, 85, 34
Lucas Wells 89
Lunelle 98
Lundy 96
Lyons 4, 36, 66, 68, 89, 92
Lyster 73
Lyall 94
Lynch 79

Mack 77
Mann 87, 179
Margaret 93
Marsh 87
Marshall 87, 90, 91, 94
Martin 82, 83, 94
Massey 68
Masters 93
Matheson 77
Maunsell 72
Meadows 96
Miller 32, 77
Millican 75, 78, 77
Milne 87
Milroy 82
Monypenny 75
Morshall 1, 8, 83, 90, 128
Moor 87
Money for Sale 188
Montague 1
Morris 79
Munro 58
Murphy 41, 78
Murray 4, 8, 9, 0, 82, 83

Mc Aree 66, 117
Mc Arthur 3, 75, 96
McConnell 5, 36
McCormick 89, 90, 92
McCracken 82
McCullough 75
McCutcheon 80
McDonald 41, 74, 75, 77
McDougall 36
McGladdery 94
McKeachan 92
McGregor 77
McHaugh 78, 77
McIvor 83

Page

McKay 87
McKenzie 60 80
McKerlie 6
McKinnon 73
McLean 76, 77
McLean 4 8 36 61
McLeod 76 74
McMillan 59 60
McNab 4
McNeish 4, 8, 9, 33, 34, 35, 36, 53, 56, 58, 60 to 64, 69
McPherson 58
McQueen 8 58
McTaggart 95
McVittie 4
McWilliams 62 87 96

Nelson 35
Nichol 77 83
Nicholson 70
Nichols 79
Noble 87
Norrish 4 9 5
North 98 51

Osborn 9 47 68 83 9
Osborne 7 90 55
Owen 4 67 86
Owens 69
Orangeman 66, 102
Oslo 75
Ottawa 79 6
Otter 33 38
Overland 78

Palmer 64 66 67 69
Parker 91
Parkhouse 29
Parkinson 7 8 9 0 3
Passmore 55 67 69
Patterson 6
Peel 35 59 60
Pearson 48 58 60 61 63 96
Peart 96
Pearsey 97
Pedley 93
Peters 9 31 86 92 156
Petrie 87
Petty 76, 35
Pine 25 29
Pigeon 70, 71
Pinkus 66
Pitura 67
Platt 84
Plester 88
Porter 32
Powers 81
Presbyterian Church 42
Price 73
Pulker 73

Quirk 74

Ramsay 4 58 90 173
Rawson 64 92
Read 8 9 0 75 76 77 78 81 86
Reburn 181
Reed 79
Rees 62
Reeve 57 74
Reid 79
Richardson 73 96
Robertson 76 87 94
Robinson 45 46 86 93
Rockwood 98 97 3
Rockwood Community Club 99
Rockwood Fire Brigade 109
Rockwood Show 107
Rockwood Town Hall 100
Roman Catholic Church 74
Root 52 61
Rowan 76 77 81
Royce 3 35 90 96 177
Rutherford 4 8
Ryerson 7 27

Salmon 94
Sampson 94
Sanderson 79 83
Saunders 5 6
Sawyer 7 77 71
Scarrow 87
Schmidt 94
Schneider 96
School Area 36
School Area Road 36
Scott 30 58 63 75, 83, 86, 88 90

Index entries

# Hide and Seek

HERE AND THERE IN TEXAS . . . IT'S MY TURN MAY 16th

# Here and There in Eramosa

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE EARLY YEARS,
AND OF THE PEOPLE AND EVENTS CONTRIBUTING
TO THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
OF THE TOWNSHIP

BY

Frank Day

**ROCKWOOD**
**May, 1953**

**Price: $3.00 Postpaid**

From Frank Day or Geo. F. Day Rockwood, Ont.

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Leaman Printing Co. Guelph, Ont.

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## AN INTRODUCTION

**By Dr. Hugh Templin**

●

Canada is a young country, by European standards, but the older parts of Ontario were settled well over a century ago. No pioneers are alive to-day and the second generation has passed from the scene No longer can history be gathered at first hand.

When that history is lost, it can never be recovered Great credit is due those enthusiastic historians, such as Frank Day, who are willing to search through old records and whose hobby is to gather all available information, piece it together sort it over, and choose the essential portions.

The only way to preserve such early history, is to have it printed Enough copies become available then so that there is no danger that the material will be lost Future historians will always be able to refer to what Mr Day has written

He is admirably qualified for this work. He has a liking for the history of the township. As Postmaster and Township Clerk, he knows the people, their farms, and their family history He has gathered the material over many years, and has made sure it is accurate and complete Eramosa Township will always be indebted to Frank Day for what he has done, and his work will be appreciated over a much wider area

Hugh Templin

Fergus, Ont , April 18th, 1953

*Sincere thanks are tendered to the many kind friends who have made possible this collection of Eramosa items. Some names will be inadvertantly omitted and for these omissions a tender apology; the assistance is deeply appreciated though the name may not be mentioned.*

*First the many valuable items submitted by Miss Ada Currie and her cordial co-operation, are an integral part of the work. Other valuable assistance was rendered by Dr. A. E. Byerly, Dr. Hugh Templin, Mrs. Gregory A. Franck, Mr. Reuben Butchart, Mrs. Robert I. Bingham, Mr. W. Melvin Grant, Rev. E. A. Brooks, Rev. Earle G. Dale, Rev. J. P. McLeod, Miss Mabel Burkholder, The Wellington County Atlas, Lovell's Directories, The Guelph Mercury, the works of Joshua Norrish, and the dozens of church and school secretaries and township clerks who have recorded current affairs for nearly 130 years.*

## CONTENTS


| | |
|---|---|
| Foreword | 1 |
| Historical Notes | 7 |
| Municipal Government | 11 |
| Historical Notes by Joshua Norrish | 15 |
| Mental and Political Attitude of Early Settlers | 19 |
| Schools | 23 |
| Early Statistics | 39 |
| Early Deeds | 43 |
| Church History | 47 |
| Rockwood | 96 |
| Everton | 120 |
| Odds and Ends | 130 |
| Family Histories | 138 |
| Miscellaneous | 177 |

**Detailed Index on Page 195**

## ILLUSTRATIONS


The Cenotaph at Rockwood . b
Mill Farm 2
George Day and Frank Day . 2
100th Township Council 14
Rockwood Academy 26
School No. 2 26
Pupils of S S No. 8 . 38
The Author and Family 62
The Railway Viaduct . . 110
John Rea . . . 174
Mrs John Ramsey . . . 174


## MAPS

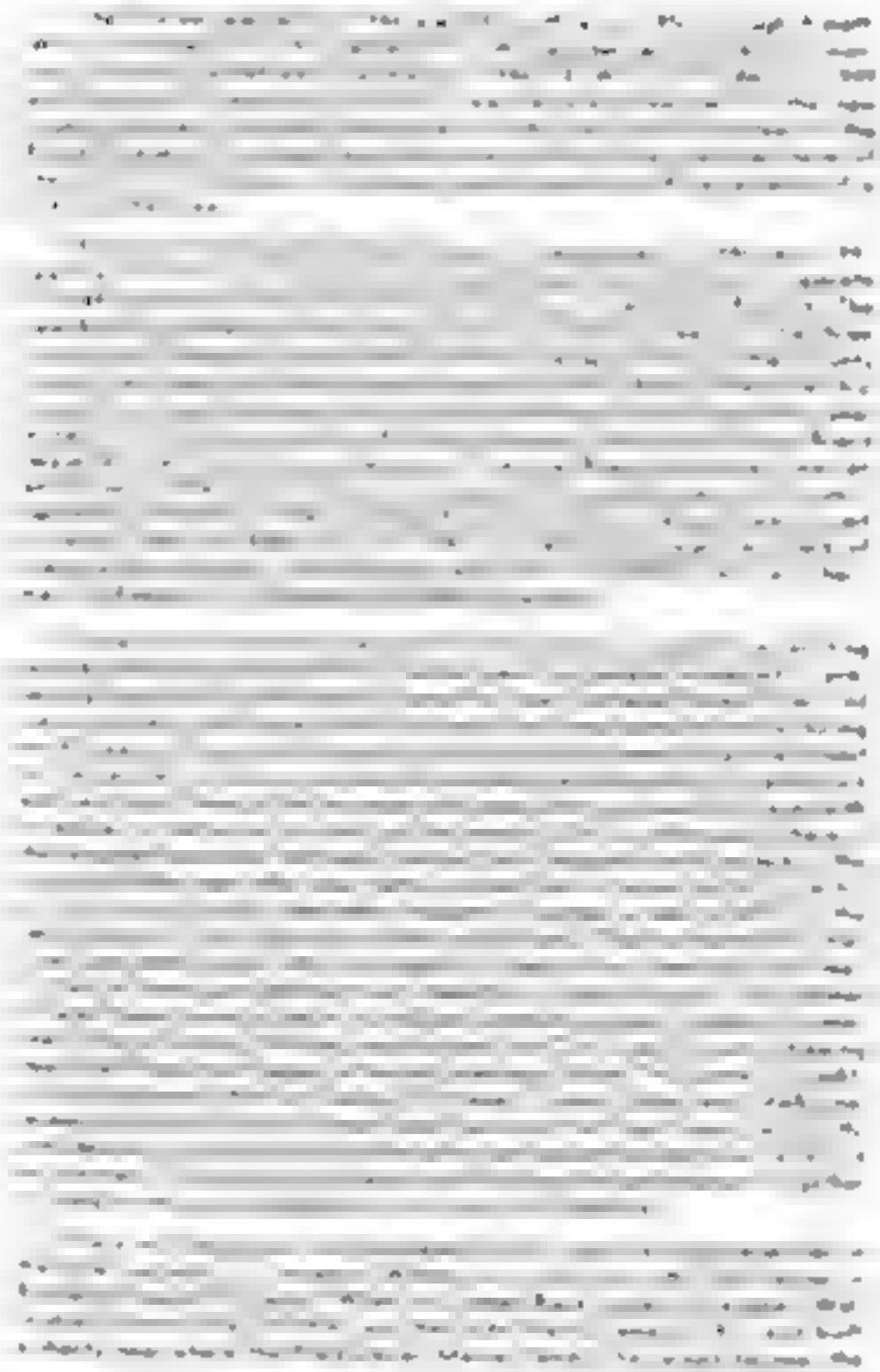

Eramosa in 1850 42
Rockwood . 98
Everton . 126
Eden Mills 126
Eramosa in 1906 . . 138
Central Section of Upper Canada 194

# FOREWORD

Mr. Frank Day, formerly of the 122nd Battalion (1914-1919), and clerk-treasurer and collector for the Township of Eramosa since 1932, has resigned.

His son, Geo. F. Day, recently discharged after four years service with the Canadian Postal Corps, has been appointed to the vacant positions.

THE MUNICIPAL WORLD, September, 1945



# HISTORICAL NOTES

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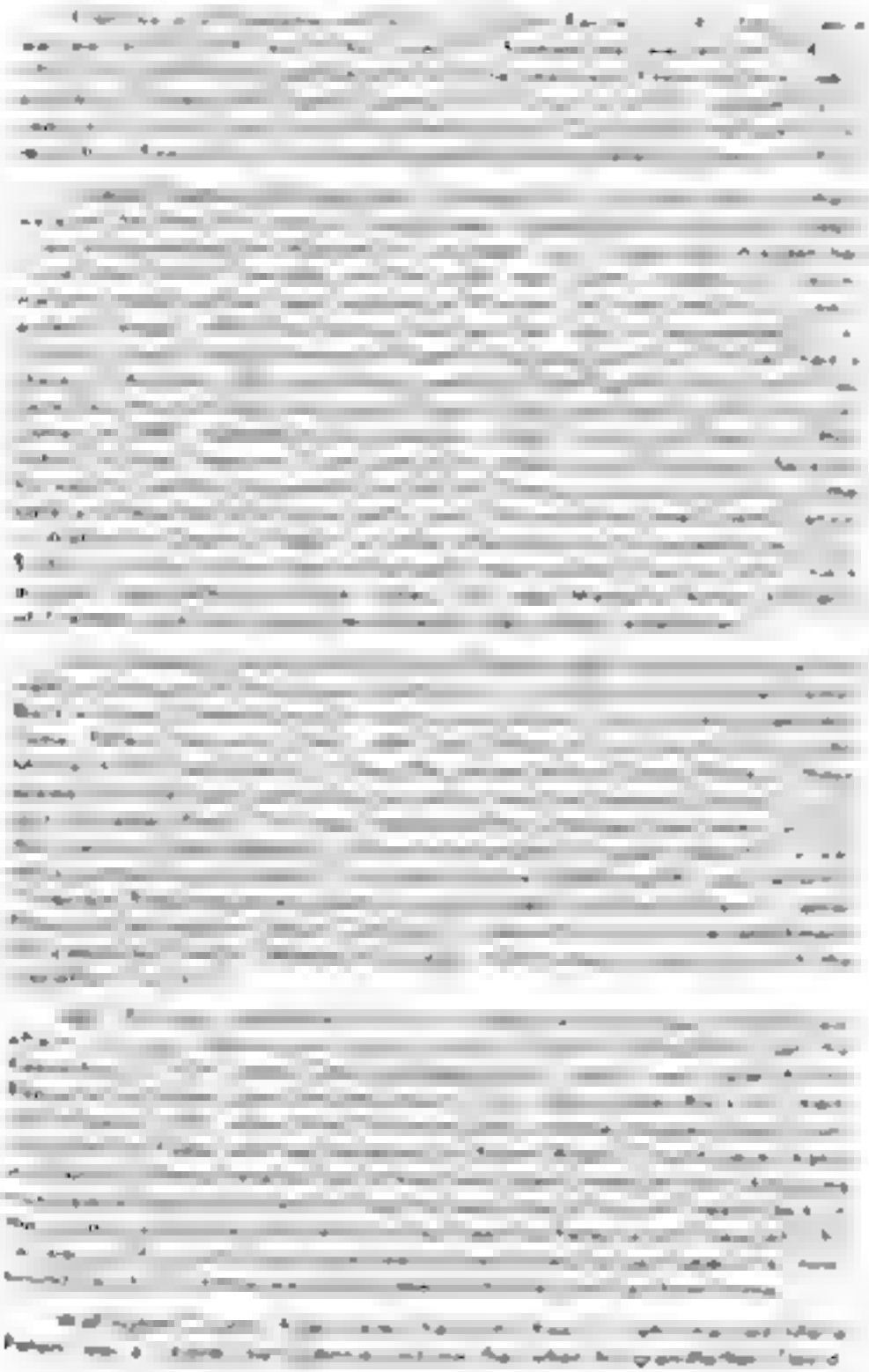
Wellington District Council Wairoa County Council Council of the United Counties of Wellington, Wairoa and Gray United Counties of Wellington and Gray

Wellington County Council

Provincial Wardens of the County of Wellington



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Concession 4.—None.

Concession 5:—Lot 2 Robert Farmes. Lots 3 and 4 John Harris Lot 7 Alex. Moore. Lot 17 Thos. Forsyth Lot 25. Jonathan Oakes.

Concession 6:—Lot 4 Wm. McNabb and David Shultis Lot 25 Thos. Cox.

Concession 7.—Lot 7 James Black Lot 4, H and R Jackson.

## MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS FROM 1838 TO 1953

From 836 to 1849 the duties and operations of the Board of Commissioners included most of those now covered 952) by the township council, police village trustees, school boards and magistrate's courts.

1836 to 840—Chairman David Kribbs Peter Miller Joseph Wood. William Everts, John Lorse.

184 to 849—Chairman. John Harris, George Armstrong, James Black, John Butchart. James Loghrin.

County Councillor from Eramosa.

1842—Thomas Armstrong.

1843 to 846—William Armstrong.

1847 to 849—Donald Black

Township Councils.

1850—Reeve. Thomas Armstrong. Councillors Adam Argo. James Mitchell. James Parkinson. Donald Black.

1851—Reeve. Thomas Armstrong. Councillors John Duffield, Robert Royce. James Parkinson, Donald Black.

852—Reeve. Lazarus Parkinson. Councillors James Mitchell. Henry Duffield. James Loghrin, Samuel Bells.

1853—Reeve. Lazarus Parkinson. Councillors: James Mitchell. Robert Royce, James Loghrin. Donald Black.

1854—Reeve. Donald Black. Councillors James Mitchell. Robert Royce. John Duffield, John McKerlie.

1855—Reeve. James Mitchell Councillors Lazarus Parkinson, Robert Royce. John Duffield, John McKerlie.

1856—Reeve, Lazarus Parkinson. Councillors Jonathan Tovell, Robert Royce. William Horne. John McKerlie.

1857—Reeve. Donald Black. Councillors: Jonathan Tovell, Robert Royce, John Duffield. John McKerlie.

858—Reeve. Donald Black Dep.-Reeve, Lazarus Parkinson. Councillors Robert Royce. John Duffield, John McKerlie.

1859—Reeve. Donald Black Dep.-Reeve, Lazarus Parkinson. Councillors Robert Royce, John Duffield, John McKerlie.

1860—Reeve. Donald Black Dep.-Reeve. Lazarus Parkinson. Councillors Robert Royce. John Duffield. John McKerlie.

186 Reeve, Donald Black Dep.-Reeve, Lazarus Parkinson, Councillors Robert Royce. John Duffield, Henry Strange.

1862—Reeve. Robert Royce. Dep.-Reeve. James Loghrin. Councillors James Wilson. John Duffield, Henry Strange.

1863—Reeve, Robert Royce Dep.-Reeve, James Loghrin Councillors: John Rea. John Duffield, George Nelson.

1864—Reeve. James Loghrin. Dep.-Reeve, Robert Royce. Councillors John Rea, John Duffield, George Nelson.

865—Reeve. James Loghrin. Dep.-Reeve. Robert Royce. Councillors John Rea. John Duffield. William Farrish

1866—Reeve James Loghrin. Dep.-Reeve. Robert Royce. Councillors: John Rea. John Duffield, William Farrish.

895- Reeve John Rae Dep.-Reeve Dan Talbot Councillors James Sharp, William Argo, Douglas McGregor

896— Reeve John Rae Dep.-Reeve, Dan. Talbot. Councillors. Charles McNabb, William Argo Douglas McGregor

897- Reeve Daniel Talbot Councillors Charles McNabb, William Argo John Dickieson, Douglas McGregor

For the ten years 897 to 906, the reeve was not a member of County Council. County Councillors for the ten years were - 897 898 899 900 901 1904 1905 and 906 John Rae 90 and 902 Daniel Talbot

898- Reeve. Daniel Talbot Councillors Charles McNabb, William Argo, John Dickieson, Noah Sunley

899. Reeve. Daniel Talbot Councillors Charles McNabb Robert Scott, John Dickieson, Noah Sunley

1900— Reeve. Daniel Talbot Councillors Robert Hamilton, Robert Scott, John Dickieson, Noah Sunley

190 Reeve Noah Sunley Councillors Robert Hamilton, Thomas Cox John Dickieson, John Grieve

902. Reeve Noah Sunley Councillors Robert Hamilton, Thomas Cox John Dickieson, John Grieve

903—Reeve. John Dickieson. Councillors George Armstrong, Robert Talbot Lan McDougall John Grieve

904 Reeve. John Dickieson. Councillors Robert Hamilton, Robert Talbot Lan. McDougall. John Grieve.

1905- Reeve John Grieve Councillors James Black Alfred Farrow, Lan. McDougall, Wm. Parkinson

1906- Reeve John Grieve Councillors James Black Robert Hamilton, Lan McDougall, Wm. Parkinson

907 Reeve John Grieve Councillors James Black, Charles McNabb, Lan. McDougall, Wm Parkinson,

908—Reeve, John Grieve, Councillors James Black, Charles McNabb, Adam Wood, Wm, Parkinson

909—Reeve, John Grieve, Councillors James Black, Charles McNabb, Adam Wood, Wm, Parkinson.

9 0—Reeve James Black, Councillors William Barber Charles McNabb, Adam Wood, John Rae

19 Reeve James Black, Councillors William Barber Charles McNabb, Adam Wood, John Rae

9 2—Reeve, Charles McNabb Councillors Charles Benham, Baxter Nelson, Adam Wood John Rae

9 3- Reeve, Charles McNabb Councillors Charles Benham, Baxter Nelson, Adam Wood, John Rae

9 4—Reeve, Charles McNabb (died in office James Black, Councillors Charles Benham, Baxter Nelson, Alfred Farrow John Rae

915—Reeve, James Black Wm. Parkinson, both died in office Adam Wood, Councillors Charles Benham Baxter Nelson, Alfred Farrow, John Rae, H E, Alton, John Rae resigned to run for the Reeveship

9 6—Reeve, Adam Wood Councillors Charles Benham, Baxter Nelson, Alfred Farrow, Hiram E Alton.

9 7 Reeve, Adam Wood Councillors Charles Benham Baxter Nelson Alfred Farrow Hiram E Alton.

1918—Reeve, Adam Wood, Councillors Charles Benham, Baxter Nelson, Alfred Farrow, Hiram E Alton.

9 9—Reeve, Adam Wood, Councillors Charles Benham, Baxter Nelson, Alfred Farrow, Hiram E, Alton.

920—Reeve, Adam Wood, Councillors Wm A. Dickieson, Baxter Nelson, Henry Sunley, George Foote.

92 -Reeve Wm A Dickieson Councillors Arch McNabb. William Barber Henry Sunley, George Foote.

922—Reeve. Wm A Dickieson Councillors Arch. McNabb William Barber Ernest Doughty George Foote.

923- -Reeve, Wm A Dickieson Councillors Arch. McNabb. William Barber William Swanston. George Foote

924- Reeve Wm A Dickieson. Councillors Arch McNabb. William Barber William Swanston. Ernest Doughty

·925- -Reeve. Wm. A. Dickieson Councillors Arch McNabb, Jos R Rutherford. William Swanston. Hiram E Alton.

926—Reeve. Arch McNabb. Councillors Jos. R Rutherford. Frank Day. William Swanston. Iram E Alton.

927- -Reeve. Arch McNabb. Councillors Jos. R Rutherford. Frank Day William Swanston Hiram E Alton.

928—Reeve Arch McNabb Councillors Jos. R Rutherford. Sims McLean Joseph Stovel, Nathan McKenzie

929—Reeve Arch McNabb Councillors Sims McLean. Albert Cox, Joseph Stovel, Nathan McKenzie.

930—Reeve Jos R Rutherford Councillors Sims McLean. Albert Cox, Joseph Stovel, Nathan McKenzie

93 —Reeve Jos R Rutherford Councillors Sims M Lean, Albert Cox Joseph Stovel, Nathan McKenzie

932- -Reeve Adam Wood died in office. Sims McLean. Councillors Sims McLean resigned to run for the Reeveship Albert Lush John A Stewart David H Storey John Hindley

933—Reeve. Sims McLean Councillors John Hindley Albert Lush. David H. Storey John A Stewart

934—Reeve. Sims McLean Councillors John Hindley Albert Lush. David H. Storey John A Stewart.

935—Reeve. Sims McLean. Councillors John Hindley Albert Lush. David H. Storey John A Stewart

936—Reeve David H. Storey Councillors John Hindley Albert Lush. David D Gray. Wm J Pinkney.

1937—Reeve David H Storey Councillors Albert Lush, John Hindley D D Gray. Wm. J Pinkney

1938—Reeve D H Storey Councillors D D Gray. Albert Lush. Wm. J Pinkney Thos. E Kelly

1939—Reeve. D D Grey Councillors Wm. J Pinkney Ernest H Benham. Roy I. Leslie, Jos. R Rutherford

940—Reeve. D D Gray Councillors Wm. J Pinkney. E H Benham. Roy I. Leslie. Jos. R Rutherford

1941 -Reeve D D Gray. Councillors Wm J Pinkney. E H Benham. Roy Leslie, Jos R Rutherford

942—Reeve, D D Gray Councillors Wm J Pinkney E H Benham. Roy I. Leslie. Jos. R Rutherford.

1943—Reeve D D Grey Councillors Wm. J Pinkney. E H Benham Roy Leslie, Jos R Rutherford.

944—Reeve. D D Gray Councillors Wm. J Pinkney. E H Benham. Roy I Leslie, Jos R Rutherford.

945—Reeve. D D Gray Dep-Reeve. Roy Leslie. Councillors E H Benham, Jos. R Rutherford. Thos. G Hutchinson.

946—Reeve D D Gray Dep-Reeve. Roy I. Leslie Councillors E H Benham. Jos. R Rutherford. Thos. G Hutchinson.

947- -Reeve. D D Gray Dep.-Reeve. E H Benham. Councillors Jos. R Rutherford. Thos. G Hutchinson. Fred L Cox

948—Reeve. D D Gray Dep.-Reeve. E H Benham Councillors: Jos. R. Rutherford, Thos. G Hutchinson, Fred L Cox

[redacted]

## ODD FACTS

[redacted]

# HISTORICAL NOTES BY JOSHUA NORRISH

[redacted]

## MENTAL AND POLITICAL ATTITUDES OF EARLY SETTLERS

[illegible]

By January [illegible] it was evident that the [illegible] great speech and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] another [illegible] victory.

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

# Schools

[illegible] copy of these rules to each of the two hundred [illegible] their experience in book

## HISTORY OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF THE VILLAGE OF ROCKWOOD TOWNSHIP OF ERAMOSA

By Mrs. A. G. Hewat

[illegible] upper grade of the [illegible] one of the [illegible] south and [illegible]

[illegible] district being [illegible] by Mrs. Ida

[illegible] a general [illegible] amount [illegible] dissatisfied [illegible] (Canadian [illegible] by Miss Ida

[illegible] one of the [illegible] The [illegible] and a year later the section was taxed for $360.00 (note change from sterling to dollar currency)

[illegible] largely in the development of school [illegible] district

The first [illegible] he was [illegible] and a few years [illegible] later became known as the Rockwood Academy. No history of the progress of education in Rockwood or indeed in the province would be complete without mention of the school which became quite well

[illegible]

## SCHOOL NO 1 SEAMOSA

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

## S S No. 2

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

## S.S No. 4

[redacted]

[redacted]

S. S. No. 9 has expanded into a school of five teachers and a roll of 170. Even in recent years an occasional tense moment has developed at school meetings. At a special meeting of ratepayers at No. 8 in 1926 the writer was chairman and was confronted with three nominations for trustee but no seconders. After an hour's deadlock a seconder for one nomination was found and a trustee elected.

At a special meeting of the ratepayers of S. S. No. 9 held in 1930 to consider enlarging the school with the site J. J. Abbott as chairman and the writer as secretary, a motion to defer action was only defeated on a count of 31 to 29. As a worthy objective and a sound principle for some of the younger men who may read these rusty extracts and who undoubtedly wish to succeed in life may quote the declaration which was signed and nobly adhered to by the trustees of S. S. No. 8 from 1847 to 1912 — "I will truly and faithfully, to the best of my ability, discharge the duties of the office to which I have been elected."

## ERAMOSA TOWNSHIP SCHOOL AREA

Erected in 1945 to operate in 1946

1946 to 1950 Trustees — E. H. McConnell, Gordon F. Swanston, Hugh Abbott, Thos. W. Saunders, Wm. H. Hindley.

1951 — E. H. McConnell, Hugh Abbott, William H. Hindley, Thos. W. Saunders, A. O. Welberg.

1952 — Thos. W. Saunders, A. O. Welberg, Cameron Lush, Cliff. McDougall, Ralph G. Comfort.

1953 — Cameron Lush, Cliff. McDougall, Ralph G. Comfort, Duncan E. McPhedran, Alex. Kingsbury.

## THE LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE

### No. 8, Eramosa, January, 1948. Enrolment, 20.

Julia. Say, Bess do you know that the wife of the new Warden of the County of Wellington was Irene Black? She was born in this Section and went to this school.

Bess. Yes. So did the wife of last year's Warden live in this Section and attended our school she was Ethel Johnston.

Tom. That's nothing to marry a Warden. Henry Hosking went to the school and he is an alderman himself in Guelph. Besides we have the Polish Major General Wolinkowski farming in this section.

Jimmy. I remember Sam McLean living in this section and my dad says that he was Warden in 1915 and I heard Jim Hunter say this morning that Fred Day was bargaining for the Teacher's Council with the Hamilton Board of Education.

Julia. I know that James Black was Reeve of Eramosa and lived here all his life.

Tom. So did Charlie and Archie McNabb and they were both Reeves of Eramosa.

Bess. The school books says that William Wetherald taught in our section before he founded The Rockwood Academy.

Jimmy I read that James J. Hill, who built railways in the States, was born in this section and went to school here.

Tom That's a long time ago, but this must be a good school, cause Dr Fred Hoskins and Rev William Graham belonged here too, and there was D. H. Shultis, who started the turnip export business and Dr Shultis in Hamilton—besides Dr Robert Farries, Dr Adam Farries and Rev. Frank Farries, Rev. George O. Black and Rev. Ed. Black

Bess They say the Dunbars of Guelph, the lawyer family, went from here, too. I guess they must get good teachers, anyway, 'cause Dewey Soper went to school here and he explores the Arctic

Teacher (aside) I wonder I wonder what I can do with these twenty pupils.

## S. S. NO. 8, ERAMOSA

**(Photo taken about 1920)**

**Back Row, Left to Right**

Wilbur Patterson, Farmer R R No 4 Rockwood.
Norton Nelson Carpenter Georgetown, Ont
Robert Hill, United States, relative of J Hill Railway Magnate.
Capt Henry A Hosking (B A Sc ) Guelph, M.P for Wellington S.
Miss Mamie Masales, deceased. Teacher Disciple Church worker mentioned in Reuben Butchart's book The Disciples of Christ in Canada since 1930."
Marion McNabb (Mrs E. J Weatherston, Guelph). Teacher Purchasing Agent for G B Ryan & Co. Guelph Later Assistant principal, Guelph Board of Education
Ethylene Johnston (Mrs. D. D Gray Rockwood).
Margaret McNabb Reg. N (Mrs A H McPhedran, R R No. 4 Rockwood).
Margaret Andrie
Sadie Cripps deceased
Loretta Moore, (Mrs. Norman Vett), Northern Ontario
Jessie Aindrie. deceased.

**Second Row:**

George Ingles Farmer R R No. 4 Rockwood
Edgar Johnston. Farmer R R No. 4 Rockwood.
Mildrad Andrie
Marion E Day Reg. N (Mrs M G Grear Hamilton Ont.).
William Ingles. Insurance. Guelph, Ont
Margaret Ingles. (Mrs. Gordon Nelson, Toronto).
Mary Black Reg N. Kitchener Ont
Edna Cripps.
Helen E Bayne Teacher School No. 8 Eramosa.

**Front Row:**

John Black Guelph. Ont
Brandon Crewson. Western Canada
Harvey Bayne Farmer R R No 4 Rockwood.
Fred Day M. A Head Maths Depmt Central High School Com. Hamilton
Russell Patterson Farmer R R No. 4. Rockwood
Edward Maude. Farmer R R No. 4. Rockwood.
Gordon Nelson Toronto, Ont
George F Day Postmaster Rockwood
Henry Cripps Acton. Ont

No. 8 School Group

The following information about the Township of Eramosa is reproduced from a Map printed and published at The Advertiser Office Guelph Ont in the year 850 Price 2s 6d

This is one of the oldest settled townships in the County of Waterloo being surveyed nearly 30 years and a few inhabitants having come in immediately afterwards At that time land was of so little value in Canada and this Township was considered to be at such a distance from Markets, that free grants of land appear to have been made to all who could prove their capability of cultivating the same Indeed some years afterwards, it was only required that the fees of the Land Office should be paid, to obtain a grant of 200 acres

The Southern part was slowly settled the land being in many parts stony and the population of the Province small and scattered But about 25 years since a number of settlers arrived in Canada from Susquehanna County in the State of Pennsylvania to which place they had immigrated a few years previously from England and Scotland and where anything but prosperity attended them On the first settlement in this township there was neither mill post office or store within 25 miles and many of the old inhabitants have their tales to tell of the anxiety and trial which they underwent during the first years of their residence in the bush The town and Township of Guelph springing soon after their arrival contributed materially to the prosperity of both Eramosa and Waterloo by furnishing a ready market a good price for all the surplus produce of these townships which the inhabitants well knew how to turn to the best account

The fine clearings extensive buildings and superior stone dwellings of many of the farmers on the first and second concessions of Eramosa are particularly attractive The following is the Census of the Township in the years 842 and 848 and presents conclusive, but not full evidence of the progress made by its thrifty inhabitants in the space of six years

| | 1848 | 1842 |
|---|---|---|
| Houses | 332 | |
| Population | 1970 | 1269 |
| Schools | 5 | 6 |
| Inns | 4 | |
| Merchant's Shops | 2 | |
| Church of England | 375 | 151 |
| Church of Rome | 297 | 106 |
| Church of Scotland | 134 | 68 |
| Free Church | 85 | |
| Other Presb | 317 | 96 |
| Wesleyans | 101 | 51 |
| Episc Methodist | 135 | 68 |
| Other Methodist | 56 | 2 |
| Baptists | 220 | 7 |
| Lutherans | 1 | 11 |
| Congregationalists | 150 | 16 |
| Quakers | 25 | 19 |
| Other Denomination | 50 | 83 |
| No Creed | 6 | |
| Natives of England | 302 | 178 |

| | 1848 | 1842 |
|---|---|---|
| Natives of Scotland | 217 | 97 |
| Natives of Ireland | 378 | 196 |
| British Origin | 999 | 516 |
| United States | 57 | 50 |
| Other Countries | 8 | 2 |
| Births in one year Males 43, Females 27 | | |
| Marriages 15 | | |
| Deaths, Males 14. Females 10 | | |
| Lunatics | 3 | |
| Farm Servants, male | 46 | 5 |
| Farm Servants, female | 28 | 4 |
| Domestic Servants, male | 1 | 1 |
| Children attending school, Male 247, Female 167 | | |
| Males under 5 years | 223 | 123 |
| Females under 5 years | 217 | 108 |
| Males above 5 and under 14 | 258 | 134 |
| Females above 5 and under 14 | 230 | 122 |
| Males and females above 14 Males 520. Females 474 | 994 | 484 |
| Children between 5 and 15 | 550 | |
| Acres of land occupied | 32146 | 24445 |
| Under tillage | 8645 | 5898 |
| Under pasture | 1995 | |
| Wild land | 21506 | |
| Unfit for cultivation | 2450 | |
| Wheat produced, bushels | 59701 | 9297 |
| Barley produced, bushels | 3792 | 8847 |
| Oats produced, bushels | 35971 | 22973 |
| Corn produced, bushels | 55 | 100 |
| Buckwheat, bushels | 277 | |
| Potatoes, bushels | 12644 | 17708 |
| Peas, bushels | | 49241 |
| Flax, lbs. | 1901 | |
| Maple Sugar, lbs | 31334 | 31252 |
| Wool, lbs | 7784 | 2702 |
| Fulled Cloth, yards | 1496 | 555 |
| Linen or Cotton, yards | | 1330 |
| Flannel, yards | 4599 | 1229 |
| Cheese, lbs. | 4480 | |
| Butter, lbs. | 11408 | |
| Meat Cattle | 2496 | 1520 |
| Horses | 413 | 436 |
| Sheep | 2461 | 2370 |
| Hogs | 1993 | 1424 |

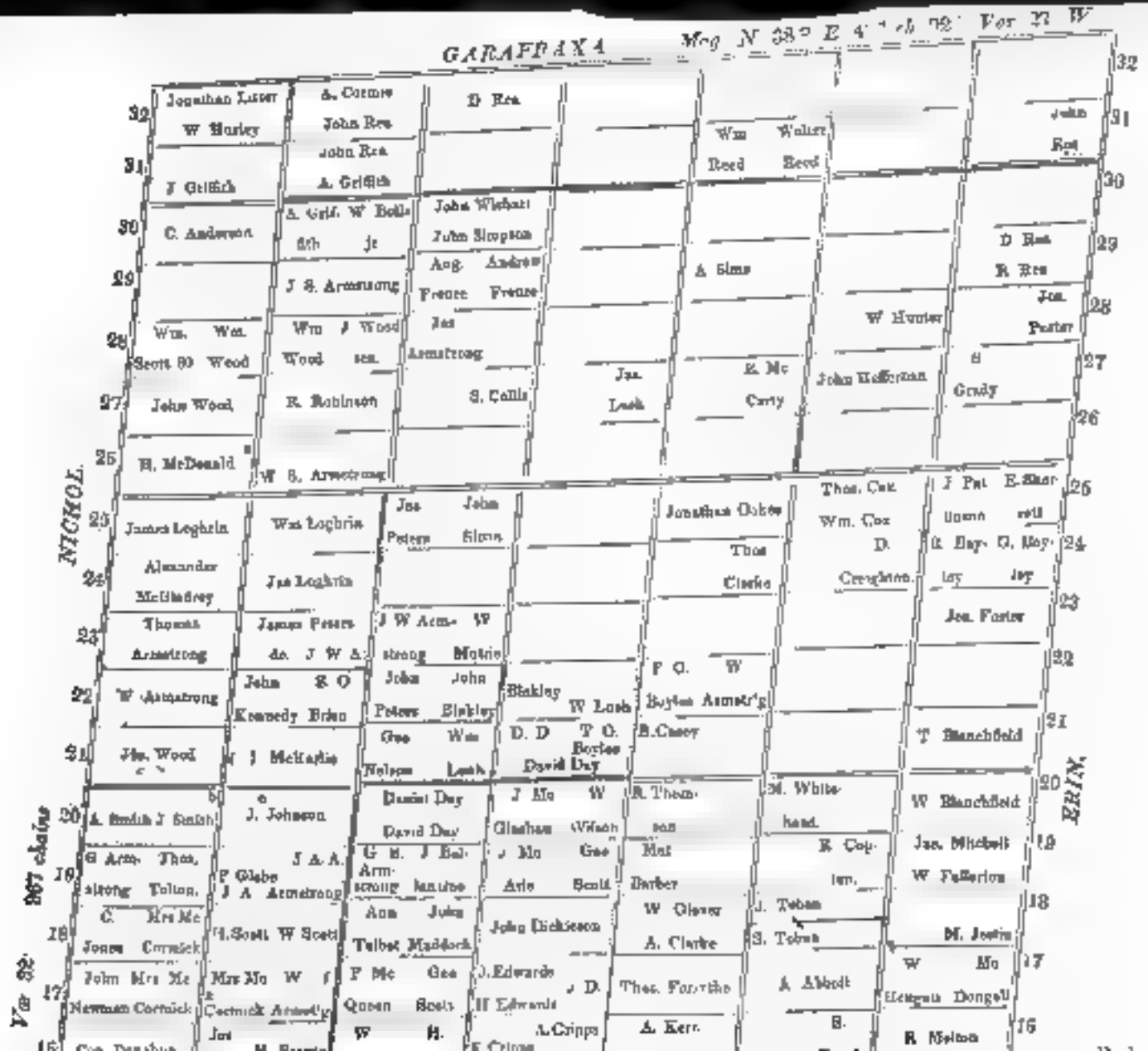
Grist Mills, 2. Run of Stones, 4. Barrels of Flour 600 Saw Mills, 5. Lumber 100 ft. board measure, 440,000. Carding Mill, 1 Wool manufactured, lbs. 10000. Tanneries, 1 Hides manufactured, 60 Potasheries, Cwts. 42 Woolen Manufactories, 1 Yards 5200. 263 Farmers, 26 Labourers, 2 Tailors, 1 Woolfactor 4 Shoemakers, 2 Waggonmakers, 3 School Teachers, 2 Surveyors, 2 Blacksmiths, 4 Innkeepers, 2 Storekeepers, 4 Carpenters, 1 Mason, 5 Weavers, 1 Engineer 2 Millers, 1 Distiller

Eramosa is bounded on the North-East by the Township of Erin; on the opposite sides by the Townships of Nichol and Guelph; on the North-West by Garafraxa, and on the South-East by Nassagaweya. The Township is small, being 12 miles long, and only about 6 miles broad, the South-Eastern portion being stony in many places, whilst the Northern part is well adapted for cultivation. Eramosa is well watered, having two branches of the Speed running across the whole township, while various small rivulets supply the remaining parts and feed the main streams. The Speed, proper, is not used for any manufactories of importance but the Southern branch sometimes called the Grand River, is made available for many useful purposes. At Rockwood, Henry Strange, esquire, has a Saw Mill, carding machine, and cloth factory in full operation, while a grist mill is in course of erection. On another stream, within a short distance of the above, is the grist mill of Mr Squires, which was at one time a fulling and hat factory. A little nearer to Guelph, Mr J. D. Murphy has an ashery, carding machine, fulling mill and saw mill, and on the adjoining lot, is the tannery of Mr McDonald, which was commenced only last year. On a lower branch of the same stream, are the Eden Mills, owned and occupied by A. L. Argo, Esq., comprising a flour mill and saw mill. The same gentleman has also a store contiguous.

Eramosa presents a fine field for the geologist and the lover of nature. The course of the Southern stream is marked by rugged rocks, precipices and water falls—small it is true, but beautiful, especially in so plain a country. Near Rockwood and also near the saw mill of Mr Everts, are interesting rocks, well worth a visit from the curious or scientific. In preparing for the foundation of Mr Strange's flour mill, a quantity of pure lead ore was found, but whether efforts have been made to find out its value, we cannot say.

# ELECTORAL AND POLLING SUB-DIVISIONS

GUELPH
KEY TO 1850 MAP
a—School House, b—Place of Worship, c—Saw Mill, d—Carding Mill,
e—Store, f—Blacksmith Shop, g—Tavern, h—Tannery, i—Grist Mill, —Post Office.


GARAFRAXA
Mag. N 33° E 4° 0' 0" Var. 7° W
NICHOL
ERIN
Var 8° W
Jonathan Lister
W Harley
J Griffith
C. Anderson
J S. Armstrong
Wm. Wm.
Scott 80 Wood
John Wood
H. McDonald
W S. Armstrong
James Leghrin
Alexander McGladrey
Thomas Armstrong
W Armstrong
Jno. Wood
Wm Leghrin
Jas Leghrin
James Peters
do. J W A.
John K O Kennedy Brian
W J McKaylie
J. Johnson
F Globe
J A Armstrong
Jones Cornick
Newman Cornick
Cornick
D Rea
John Rea
A. Griffith
John Wishart
John Simpson
Freare Freare
Jas Armstrong
S. Calls
Jas. Lush
A Sims
Wm Walker Reed Reed
W Hunter
John Heffernan
R. Mc Carty
D Rea
R Rea
Jas. Porter
Grady
Jno. John Peters Sims
Jonathan Oakes
Thos Clarke
F C. W Boyton Armstr'g
B.Casey
Thos. Cox
Wm. Cox
D.
Creighton
J Pat E. Shar
Jas. Foster
T Blanchfield
W Blanchfield
Jas. Mitchell
W Fullerton
M. Justin
W Mc
R Melton
J. Tobin
S. Tobin
A Abbott
M. White
R. Cop
Barber
W Glover
A. Clarke
Thos. Forsythe
A. Kerr
Daniel Day
David Day
Talbot Maddock
John Dickieson
A. Cripps
W Lush
D. D T O. Boyles
David Day
Blakley
Glashan
Arlo
Scott
J. Edwards
H Edwards
Queen
Scots
Gee
Wilson
Mat
Thom son
Hengum Dongall

## [redacted] OED

### [redacted] of Upper Lambda

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

day of April in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and thirty-seven and in the seventh year of our reign.

By Command of His Excellency in Council. "F B Head" "Seal"

Upper Canada, 18th May 819, Administration of Sir P Maitland, "Patent fee and survey paid, Settlement duties performed."

Reverse.

GRANT David Farrier 100 acres in Eramosa, District of Gore. Recorded 22 April 1837 Book C H.. folio 375 D. Cameron, Registrar

## CLERGY RESERVE DEED

### Province of Canada

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and reland, QUEEN Defender of the Faith. To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come -GREET NG

WHEREAS the Lands hereinafter described and granted are part of the Lands which have been from time to time, according to the provisions of Law in that beha.F allotted and appropriated, and are commonly known as CLERGY RESERVES,

AND WHEREAS, by an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the eighth year of the late King George the Fourth, intituled "An Act to authorize the sale of a part of the Clergy Reserves in the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada" and by another Act of the said Parliament, passed in the Third and Fourth years of Our Reign intituled, "An Act to provide for the sale of the Clergy Reserves n the Province of Canada, and for the distribution of the proceeds thereof" power and authority is given to the Governor Lieutenant-Governor or Person Administering the Government respectively as well of the said Province of Upper Canada as of the said Province of Canada, with the advice of the Executive Council to sell, grant alienate and convey, all or any of the said Clergy Reserves

AND WHEREAS, in the pursuance of the power and authority given in and by the said Acts or by any one or other of them, a contract hath been duly entered into for the sale and conveyance of the lands, tenements and hereditaments hereinafter mentioned being part of the said Clergy Reserves, unto ROBERT ROBINSON, of the Township of Eramosa, in the County of Wellington, Yeoman, his heirs and assigns, at and for the price of ONE HUNDRED and SIXTY POUNDS

NOW KNOW YE that in consideration of the said sum of One Hundred and Sixty Pounds—to Our Commissioner appointed by Us to super-

intend the sale of the said Clergy Reserves, to and for Our use well and truly paid WE have granted sold, aliened and conveyed, and by these presents do grant sell, alien and convey unto the said Robert Robinson his heirs and assigns, ALL that Parcel or Tract of Land, situate in the Township of Eramosa in the County of Wellington of Our said Province containing by admeasurement two hundred acres be the same more or less, being the Clergy Reserve Lot Number Twenty-seven in the Second Concession of the aforesaid Township of Eramosa TOGETHER with all the Woods and Waters thereon lying and being To have and to hold the said Parcel or Tract of Land hereby granted to him the said Robert Robinson his heirs and assigns for ever SAVING NEVERTHELESS, unto Us Our Heirs and Successors all mines of Gold and Silver that shall or may hereafter be found on any part of the said Parcel or Tract of Land hereby given and granted as aforesaid.

GIVEN under the Great Seal of Our Province of Canada WITNESS Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin JAMES, EARL of ELGIN AND KINCARDINE Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle Governor-General of British North America and Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over Our Provinces of Canada Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Island of Prince Edward and Vice-Admiral of the same &c &c &c At Quebec this Eleventh day of June in the year of Our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two—and in the fifteenth year of Our Reign.

By Command of His Excellency in Council A. W Morin,

John Ralph Commissioner of Crown Lands Ref No. 12061 Des. No. 430 2 H

SEAL - Victoria Britanniarum Regina Etd. Sigillum Provinciae Canadae. Elgin & Kincardine

Reverse.

CLERGY SALE

Grant to Robert Robinson 200 acres Township of Eramosa, County of Wellington Recorded 10th July 1852 Lib D A Fol 159 Jno Amiot, Deputy Registrar C . Dept Frederic Roche

Through the kindness of Mr William Robinson, R R No 5, Rockwood, who is retiring to Fergus next month we have had the opportunity to copy the above Clergy Reserve deed to Lot 27 Concession 2 Mr Clare Robinson who is now residing on and operating the northwesterly half of the lot is of the fifth generation to farm this land

Apparently Robert Robinson secured his Crown Deed in 1852 but he was listed as occupier earlier than that A map of Eramosa dated 1850 shows Robert Robinson located on Lot 27 Concession 2 the first names mentioned as members of "First Presbyterian Church, Eramosa" (Barrie Hill) on the formation of the congregation in 1838 are Robert and Elizabeth Robinson. Apparently Robert Robinson was living on this lot in 1850

and probably before 1838. for Lot 27 is only some 2¼ miles from Barrie Hill Church We may assume that he lived on this lot under one of three conditions 1st as a squatter 2nd, as a tenant of the Crown. or 3rd under an Agreement for Sale with the grant obtainable when fully paid for

It is interesting to note that whereas free grants were obtainable from the Crown in the 1820's and 1830's, land values had so increased by 1852 that the Crown received 60.0.0 Pounds or approximately $800.00 from Robert Robinson for this lot It is interest ng. too, to note that wh le the act to "authorise the sale of Part of the Clergy Reserves" was passed in the reign of George 4th the act to "provide for the sale of the Clergy Reserves was passed in the 3rd and 4th years of the reign of Queen Victoria The latter act coming so soon after the Mackenzie rebel ion seems to indicate that the authorities in England had at last recognised the feeling and temper of the settlers regarding Clergy Reserves. There appears to be a substantial difference between the two Acts that of George 4th merely "authorises" the sale of "part" of the Clergy Reserves, while that of Victoria "provides for the sale of the Clergy Reserves", presumably all of them.

There are several cases in Eramosa in 1950 where members of the fourth generation are operating the farms of their great-grandfathers and children of the fifth generation are residing thereon but it appears that the case of Mr Clare Robinson of the fifth generation operating Lot 27 and his daughters, Linda and Velda, of the sixth generation living there. is unique in Eramosa.

# Church History

[illegible]

# A SURVEY OF THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED CHURCH SOCIETIES

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Mr Hall moved away and [illegible] H Harris had succeeded Cole [illegible] as Secretary. Miss Gordon, Miss Gordon, Jessie Gordon and Evelyn Patterson were added to the Session.

[illegible] Mr Hall was active in the remodelling of the Manse [illegible] Session requests the congregation obtain [illegible] Mr Hall [illegible] to spend [illegible] the manse [illegible] Mr Hall decided to [illegible] the year in the [illegible] membership of the Manse [illegible] Presbytery, [illegible] Presbytery.

[illegible] Burkwood [illegible] several notes [illegible] 44' [illegible] Hall [illegible] Hall [illegible] H Pearson [illegible] H Pearson [illegible] H Hunting and [illegible] A Patterson [illegible] Knight [illegible] Hall [illegible] Hall [illegible] Hall

[illegible]

[illegible]

## The Presbyterian Church, Eastwood

[illegible]

The author and family St George's Park, Guelph
Picture taken in 1952

[illegible]

## Historical Sketch of the Parish of Acton and Rockwood Diocese of Niagara

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

for 3 years and returned on account of his wife's health. He seems to have been the butt of a not always kindly sportsman when he found it necessary to do things which he had never before called upon him to do. One night he emerged [illegible] of a confectionery and knocked at a parishioner's door. He had lost his hat, he had lost his horse, he had lost his way. My word, he said, the old wine is not as it used to be. In 1933 he was still vicar of the Church of the Holy [illegible] Northumberland, which he went from here in 1874. The [illegible] in what feelings he takes back upon his Canadian experiences.

His successor was the Rev. Matthew Wilson, who came here from Hexham [illegible] Northumberland. He died at Bothwell, Ont. A few days of his death, Mrs. Wilson passed away at the home of Matthew Burton, Edinburgh, where he was visiting. Rev. Arnold Boultbee, who is here Mr. Wilson was on the point of leaving for a new church to replace the frame one, then 35 years old. They opened a bazaar in the old church and a great three day bazaar was held in the Town Hall on August 4th, 5th and 6th, 1897. Admission was by a small booklet called a "Bazaar Key" at 10 cents each day. The booklet bears the name of H. P. Moore, Printer, Acton.

## Points of interest in the History of St. Alban's, Acton, St. John's, Rockwood and Church of the Ascension, Eramosa

1849 July 8th. First marriage in the register. William Hewer of Guelph to Mary [illegible] Moore of Eramosa.
851 First register of baptisms, [illegible] Strange.
852 Rev. [illegible] M. Hall Stewart.
859 [illegible] on the corner, Rev. C. H. Grinkwater, [illegible] Rockwood and Eramosa.
86 Church of the Ascension, the Mission comprised Acton, Rockwood, [illegible] Guelph, Nelsonburg and Eramosa.
1863 Rev. [illegible] Jewett. 864 Rev. H. Wrangleboro.
865 Rev. [illegible] Vicars. 868 Rev. W. H. Bates. 1872 Rev. W. F. Swallow.
1873 The mission was the last Rockwood, Acton and Eramosa remain.
875 Church for Sunday School and debt of church discharged. (Acton)
1876 Rev. C. B. Lee, M.A. Church consecrated by the first Bishop of Niagara, Rt. Rev. Thomas Brock Fuller, D.D., Acton.
1879 Rev. W. [illegible] Pigott. 881 Eramosa. (Church of the Ascension) separated from the mission. Church [illegible] Mr. Pigott built the present very handsome church at Rockwood. 1888 Rev. A. G. B. Westmacott.
1889 Rev. G. B. [illegible]ooke. 895 Rev. J. K. [illegible]ackson, M.A. The rectory enlarged and improved. 1902 Rev. J. G. Browne, M.A.
1905 9th November, Rev. Matthew Wilson, M.A. (Glasgow), L.Th. (Durham).
1910 Rev. E. P. [illegible]atterman. 1912 Rev. H. H. Wilkinson. 1915 Rev. C. H. E. Smith.
1918 Rev. E. P. Maunsell. 1921 Rev. H. G. [illegible] Baugh. 1926 Rev. Philip A. Sawyer.

## Catholic Churches

## Mampas Presbyterian Church

### Now Mampas United Church, Lot 26, Seremban, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia and Sea

Here is a copy of an entry in the Session book made in the year 1891
Moved by John S. Bee seconded by James Bee that the Session having learned that Mr So and So a member of this church, intends having a dance at his place on Friday night preparatory to [illegible] that the Session express its disapproval of such an evening [illegible] to the cause of Christ in this community and that the pastor at the close of the preparatory service urge upon [illegible] the necessity of keeping away from such a gathering [illegible]

A [illegible] these [illegible] refer on one more of the poor and [illegible] Session functionaries they strove earnestly to do their Masters work and keep Paul [illegible] to have conscience void of offence toward [illegible] and men May we by observing the 70th anniversary of the founding of this church keep their memory green and may we [illegible] to uphold and maintain the high ideals which they, by the grace of God were enabled to establish in Munroe in the year 1884

THE BIA [illegible] CEMETERY

The little cemetery which is situated on the East corner of the James Bee homestead was [illegible] in the same year as the Presbyterian Church The first burial was that of George Ramey in April 1884 The two original owners of the land [illegible] William Watson who died in 1879 and William Watson in 1884 [illegible] the original trustees of cemetery trustees Peter McDonald [illegible] North [illegible] alone remain Most of the early pioneers of the district who were members of the Presbyterian Church [illegible] there The Simons McDonalds and Watsons were Highland Scotch while the Torrances Browns and Watsons were natives of Edinburgh Berwick or Roxborough shire

W Melvin Grant

## Historical Sketch

### [illegible] Methodist Church, 1868- 1925 1934. W , Lot 28, Con. 2. Township of Ops

The early pioneers of the Munroe district knew that tearing the land, growing enough wheat to keep them from being hungry and erecting dwellings for man and beast were not enough to bring happiness and contentment They knew that man cannot live by bread alone and so we are not surprised to learn that they [illegible] their neighbours on the side of their religious [illegible] for the [illegible] Both [illegible] services were first held in the [illegible] and [illegible] lodges and [illegible] of the [illegible] were held [illegible] were young Ministers from the [illegible] of the [illegible] the early communities and wherever [illegible] there [illegible] a group of nucleus of a congregation [illegible] Many of the settlers in the Munroe district were in the Methodist faith and we learn that they were holding [illegible] services before 1868 At [illegible] meeting in Jessop's farm and also in the school on the north corner of the Gideon Aarey farm where W [illegible] now lives In the year 1860 this small but courageous group which included William Cox Peter Mathews Levi Allen John Greasley Gideon Aarey and Humphrey Jessop purchased a

[illegible]

## Stone United Church

In the early days Methodism [illegible] as far as its government was concerned took on Methodist principles from [illegible] was perfectly natural for its preachers were [illegible] by the American Bishops and until 1832 were under their [illegible] in 1874 the Wesleyans, Primitive Methodists and Methodist New Connexion united into one body and took the name Methodist. [illegible] The Methodist Episcopal Church remained separate until 1883 when it united with the Methodist Church in Canada. Fremont Methodist Episcopal Church now called Stone Church was dedicated, according to the record on the stone over the door, to

## The History of Sarre Hill Church, 1832-1942

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

## The History of Speedside Church, 1845-1945

By Rev. [illegible] Davie

[illegible]

[illegible]

Elders since Union J. L. Taylor Earl Hindley Fred Freure, Bruce Freure James L. Bentham R. C. McGladrey A. Boles, Wilbert Matthews

NOTES BY FRANK DAY Rev. E. G. Dale received a call to Fullarton in 1948, having equalled the length of pastorate of Rev. John Robertson. 9 years. Barrie Hill and Speedside called Rev. W. R. Buchanan of Ravenna, Ont. On June 15th. Presbytery appointed Rev. John Ward and Rev. Dr. C. E. Kenny to induct Mr. Buchanan into the Eramosa charge on July 2nd, 1948. Rev. W. R. Buchanan received a call to Caistorville, effective July 1st, 1952, and Rev. Hugh C. McTaggart, B.A. Dalston, Ont. was duly inducted to the charge of Barrie Hill and Speedside.

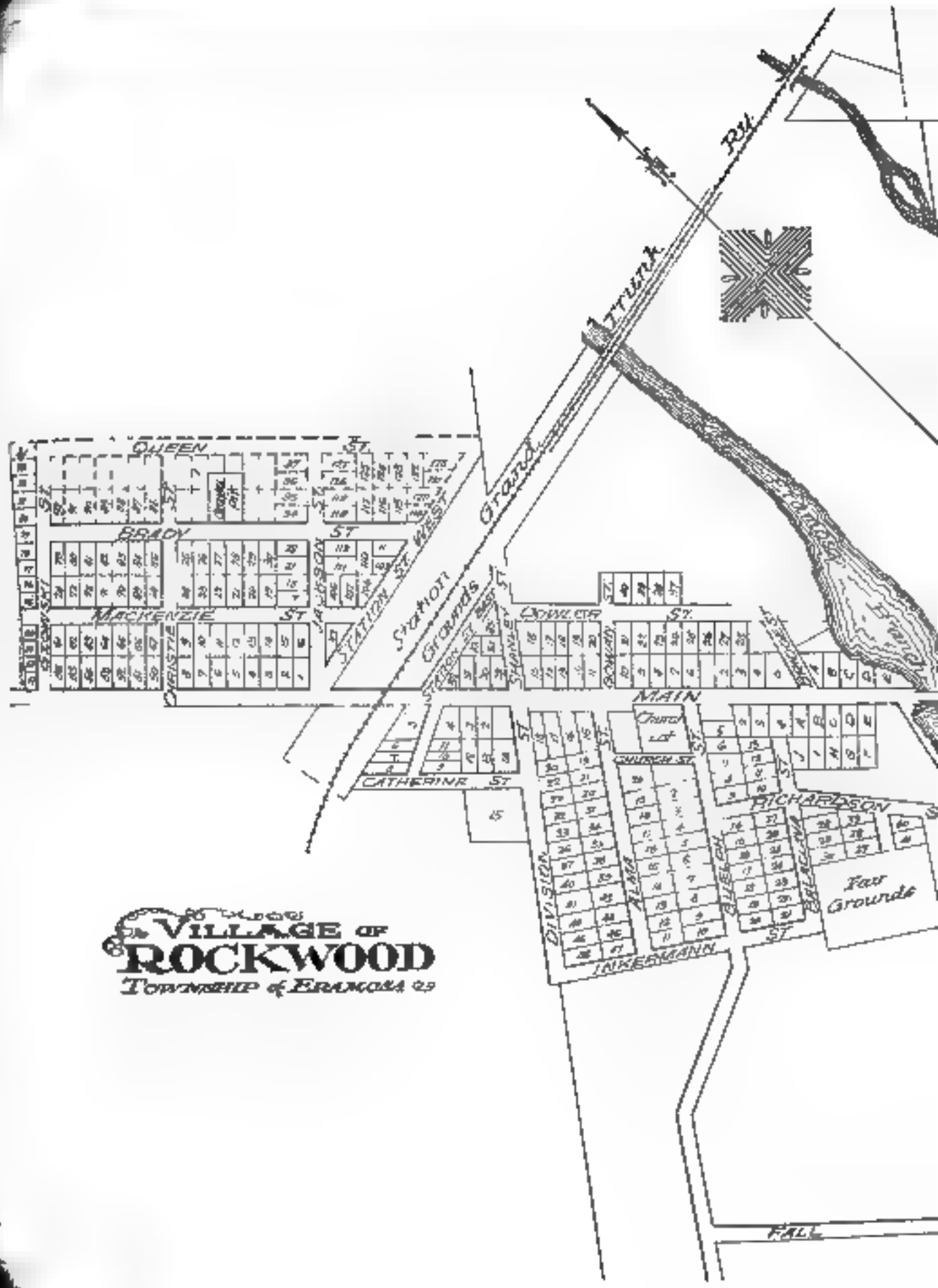
The Congregationalists had a church at Eden Mills. The First Congregational Church, Eramosa. On January 11th, 1853, a member wrote that a house (church) had been erected and a few days before had been opened for worship. Rev. Hiram Denny of Halton County had been the first pastor having several churches on this circuit including The Second Congregational Church at Speedside, and Rev. J. Braine of Guelph was in 1853 taking the services. This Hiram Denny was a great, great uncle of my wife. It is true that he lived in Halton County but it was on the town line between Halton and Wellington just beyond the Church. United Church, formerly Congregational on Lot 32 Con. 3, Esquesing.

From The Globe of February 12th, 1940. Right Hon. Sir Lyman P. Duff, 74 year-old Chief Justice of Canada, who has substituted frequently for Governors-General of Canada but never for so sorrowful a cause, was clothed to-night with all the powers and prerogatives of the King's personal representative in Canada as Administrator of the Government.

In a solemn ceremony enacted at the residence of Sir Lyman and in the presence of Prime Minister Mackenzie King, the Chief Justice late this evening repeated the same solemn oaths which the late Governor-General, Lord Tweedsmuir took when he came to Ottawa on Nov. 2nd, 1935. The swearing-in took place three hours after Lord Tweedsmuir's death in a Montreal hospital.

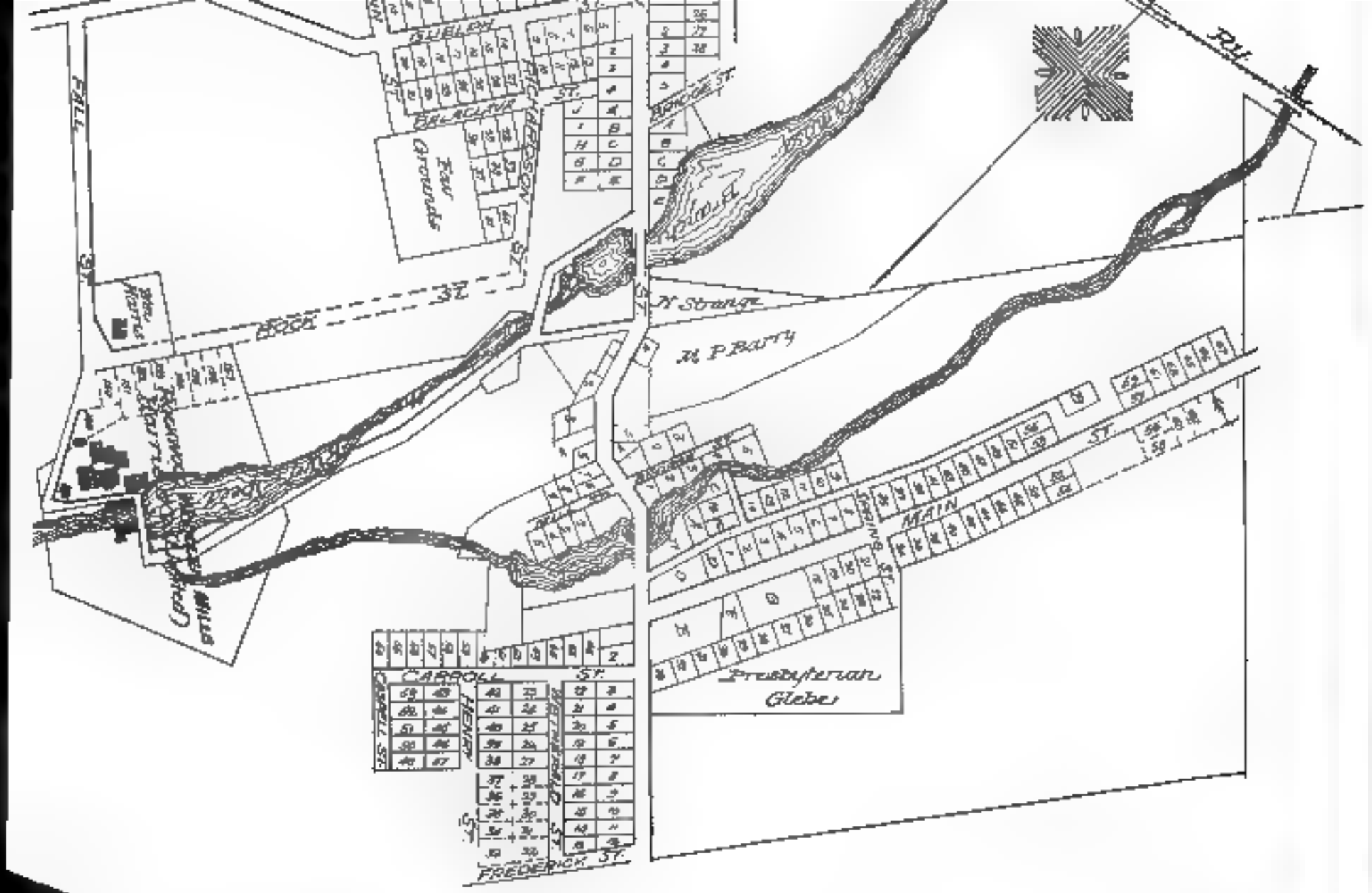
# Rockwood

## Wolves Look in Windows at Night Outside Early Backwood Home




# VILLAGE OF ROCKWOOD

TOWNSHIP of ERAMOSA


Fair Grounds
Presbyterian Glebe
MAIN ST.
CARROLL ST.
FREDERICK ST.
HENRY ST.
MECHANIC ST.
BRIDGE ST.
FALL ST.
ROCK ST.
N. Strange
N. P. Barry

Henry Strange Sr owned a considerable amount of land on the site where Guelph now stands also the larger part of bushland where Rockwood now stands. He gave his son Henry his house at the Guelph property on the bushland and my father always having a great love for the wild and woodly ... hence the name of the property Henry Strange came into possession of the Rockwood property.

My grandfather died very suddenly in Guelph in 838. One of the three daughters was [illegible] (I figure [illegible] spoke) the rest of her life. The other two married and settled near by. One of them had a son who many years later became one of the prominent Governors the Hon Lionel H Clarke who while still in office died in August 97.

It was 2 or 3 years after my grandfather's death before my father went to Rockwood to live. He lived all the rest of his life there and died in 906 at the ripe old age of 9 years.

I hope this authentic history of Early Rockwood will elucidate some of its perplexities.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Emily A Strange Johnston

Dr Byerly says further of Rockwood: Rockwood and Eden Mills are the principal villages in Eramosa. The Harris family is the oldest family at Rockwood and up to a few years ago conducted its principal business a woollen mill. Robert Paxmore who opened a store at Rockwood in the early 50's has two sons living at Rockwood who are grandsons of the late famous James J Hill railway builder who was born in Eramosa. William North was a school teacher one of the early settlers at an early date and also had a school at Eden Mills 848 going there after the school burned down at Rockwood. Brotherstown: As Eramosa township was the first in the County to be settled save the vicinity of Marlborough and Nichol and a few settlers in Puslinch this rather entitles it to notice of its early history has been given.

Wellington County Atlas says: Rockwood justly claims distinction for its natural beauty. The rugged rocks that skirt the Eramosa branch of the Speed with their romantic scenery are unsurpassed in this part of the Province. The water power is utilized by a number of manufacturing establishments, among them the woollen mills of the Harris & Co Ltd whose a little lower are the Lime Mills. Rockwood has four churches two hotels a number of stores a branch of The Traders Bank and a Public Library. The population is about 600.

Lovell's Directory of 87 says: Rockwood A flourishing village on the river Speed 10m ship at Eramosa centre riding of the County of Wellington. It has extensive water power. The neighbourhood affords some striking scenery. There are an excellent limestone quarries. Rockwood contains grist saw and oatmeal mills a large woollen factory a stave factory and an excellent academy accommodating from 40 to 50 pupils. There is a cheese factory 2 miles from the village. Montreal Telegraph Co has an office and the Grand Trunk Railway a station here. Distant from Guelph

## A SOCRATIC PHILOSOPHER

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

work out a good character much faster than anyone can work me out of it" Beecher

How absurd it is to try to make two men think alike on matters of religion Take short views hope for the best and trust in God Charles V Robertson

It is no more possible to think without a word than it is to dispense with eating and drinking Conceived nourished borne by woman our very being is in a great measure that of the race It is utterly impossible for us to dissolve ourselves altogether from the mother

The only way to find a friend is to be one Habits of thought

The heart benevolent and kind most resembles God Burns

So let her pass and seek her to defame me And aggravate my folly who committed an such a gross the most sacred trust of secrecy my safety and my life Samuel or Joseph Milton

The Lord is good unto them that wait for him to the soul that seeketh him"

Two hundred and fifty millions of the human race in tropical climes habitually go naked Montreal Star

"God is love a summary of the scriptures Holman

The religion that is worthy of faith is sometimes very quiet in places where it is most needed

"What doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God Micah

"I have learned in whatever state I am therewith to be content" Philippians

Thou shalt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee" Isaiah

Faith is the means of union to Christ Balfour

"Our religion should be personal not partaking of any creed to support it Wood

Every heart contains perfection's germ Shelley

Fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of man Eccles

"There is a Divine there is in man as well as a Divinity Carlyle

'It is the mind that makes the body rich Shakespeare

"Though I look old yet am strong For in my youth I never did apply Hot and rebellious liquors in my blood Nor did not with unbashful forehead woo the means of weakness and debility Therefore my age is as a lusty winter Frosty but kindly Shakespeare

"Every man however good has yet a better man within him" Humboldt

Plato whom the Christians know as one of the greatest philosophers said that young men and women should see each other naked in order to be able to see what sort of person they are to marry (From Lotus Time in Japan) Reed

"Now as in the days of old nations or individuals are impoverished of flourishing in the ratio of their obedience to the great moral laws" - Wood

Apparently William Wood or his family occupied the little cottage Swan Valley Road for some 80 years His writings show that the many

[illegible]

## [illegible] CEMETERY

[illegible]

## [illegible] DITCH

[illegible]

## [illegible] FOUR SAIL

[illegible]

## [illegible] THE GROOM

would be ready for use at six o'clock. The year 1944 saw the purchase of a new truck for $1,215 from General Motors on which to mount the fire equipment. 1949 a new equipment was purchased and mounted on the truck [illegible] pumper with a 300 gallon tank. A new [illegible] was purchased [illegible] Bylaw No. [illegible] the Rockwood Fire Department [illegible] the Township of Pilkington [illegible] 1965 whereby the Rockwood Fire Department [illegible] with the town-ship. The [illegible] per month and $25.00 per hour for [illegible] to the part in the Area by the township. [illegible]

## THE FARMERS HOME

The Rockwood [illegible] Agricultural Association purchased the land at the corner of Main and Dundas Streets in 1870 and erected the present Farmers Hall. This association passed out of existence in the 1930's and in 1944 the Hall was conveyed by deed to the Corporation of the Township of Pilkington.

## ROCKWOOD COMMUNITY CLUB

[illegible] was incorporated on March 14, 1944 and has just about a record of keeping itself [illegible] Rockwood [illegible] Community Building has provided [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible] sports for [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

The Railway Viaduct at Rockwood, built in 1851

[illegible]

## ROCKWOOD VILLAGE EARLY CENTRE OF EDUCATION

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

of worship by the Friends and also set apart two acres for a cemetery in which the early settlers are buried. Mr. Harris married Miss Jane Wetherald in 1838. The place was first called Brothertown but was soon renamed Rockwood.

Wetherald sold the place in 1864 with the intention of living in Philadelphia but returned in two years to settle at Fenwick in the Niagara Peninsula. He was succeeded as the principalship of Rockwood Academy by Donald McCaig and later by A. McMillan. The school was carried on with success until the Government system of high schools was established. From competition Mr. McMillan found the going hard and the famous old institution closed its doors in 1883.

## JAMES J. HILL, RAILWAY MAGNATE

William Wetherald was fortunate in having among his pupils at Rockwood Academy James J. Hill, a native of Guelph. Jimmy Hill was known as a good student, the dark-haired boy with the plump face who became a railroad king and lived at St. Paul, Minn. Mr. Hill was always ready to acknowledge the debt he owed his teacher and later sought to offer part payment in a rather striking way. When he became president of the Canadian Northern Railway, with sons of his over at the school age, he invited Mr. Wetherald to pay him a visit to his palatial home in St. Paul. He sent a railway ticket and intimated that spending money would be forthcoming. Mr. Wetherald accepted the invitation and was entertained royally for two weeks.

At the close Mr. Hill said:

"I had two reasons, sir, for inviting you here. I wished to pay my respects to you, and to show in some tangible way what your influence has meant to me. And I wish to ask you if you will remain here and teach my boys, giving them the same kind of instruction that you imparted to me."

It was a big offer, but Mr. Wetherald, who by this time had become a minister of the Friends' church at Fenwick, refused to give up his ministerial work for more lucrative but worldly pursuits. Thereby he showered how little worldly prosperity entered into his calculations.

Mr. Hill was disappointed but said:

"Send me one of your sons to tutor my boys."

A son accepted the post. Soon he became paymaster of one of the divisions of the Canadian Northern Railway. Mr. Hill speedily put him right to the top.

## IN DEMAND AS A SPEAKER

Meanwhile the father continued as minister of the little church near Fenwick. He conducted services all over the district and was much in demand as a speaker at garden parties and other church gatherings. His tall, spare figure and noble head crowned with grey hair was a familiar sight on many platforms. He was a great gentleman, the soul of honour, fascinating in presence and possessed of a ready wit.

"When he read a hymn or a psalm you thought you had heard a whole sermon," reminisced a Fenwick man who had often sat under his spell.

Many neighbours could contribute stories of the jokes he told and the pungent sayings that came readily from his lips the repartee that was shot back without a moment's hesitation to an opponent's thrust He was the lion of their public gatherings Once he flayed a chronic complainer who was bemoaning this earth as a vale of tears from which he would fain be away

"It's a good earth and I want to stay here as long as can." Wetherald declared amid laughter for all present knew that the pessimist did not mean what he said but was filled with great dread at the thought of death.

Somebody asked Mr Wetherald what he thought about reciprocity when it was a live question before the first world war

He replied impressively

"If religion teaches me anything, it teaches me that all men are brothers We have no right to raise barriers between members of a family. Nations are only big families so why raise national barriers?"

He spoke with so much dignity that the argument fell dead and the discussion was closed

During a visit to England William Wetherald died and was buried there. He was father of the distinguished Canadian poet Miss Ethelwyn Wetherald

## SOME GRADUATES OF OLD TIME FAMOUS ROCKWOOD ACADEMY

1927 Mr William Burns, Rockwood supplied the late Mr James Grant with the following notes including a list of names of those who, within his knowledge had at one time and another attended Rockwood Academy

Wm Wetherald started Rockwood Academy and sold to McCaig and McMullan Assistant Teachers James Forrest Mr Mayles or Miles

Dentists Dr Jabus Coram Dr John Corem.

Lawyers Richard Collins Australia. Jeffry McCarthy, Toronto. George Weir Dresden D. O. Cameron, Toronto Alex Dunbar, Guelph.

Preachers Rev Frank Farries Ottawa Rev Dr Solomon Cleaver Toronto, Rev Richard Large Rev Dr T Albert Moore, (later Moderator United Church)

Notable Persons H P Moore Editor and Proprietor Acton Free Press; A S Hardy, one-time Premier of Ontario Hon Sir Adam Beck, J J Hill, Railway Magnate. John Richard Harris, who built Rockwood Woollen Mill, Dr Wm Tytler School inspector Henry Corby, M.P., Belleville D. D. Christie, Guelph.

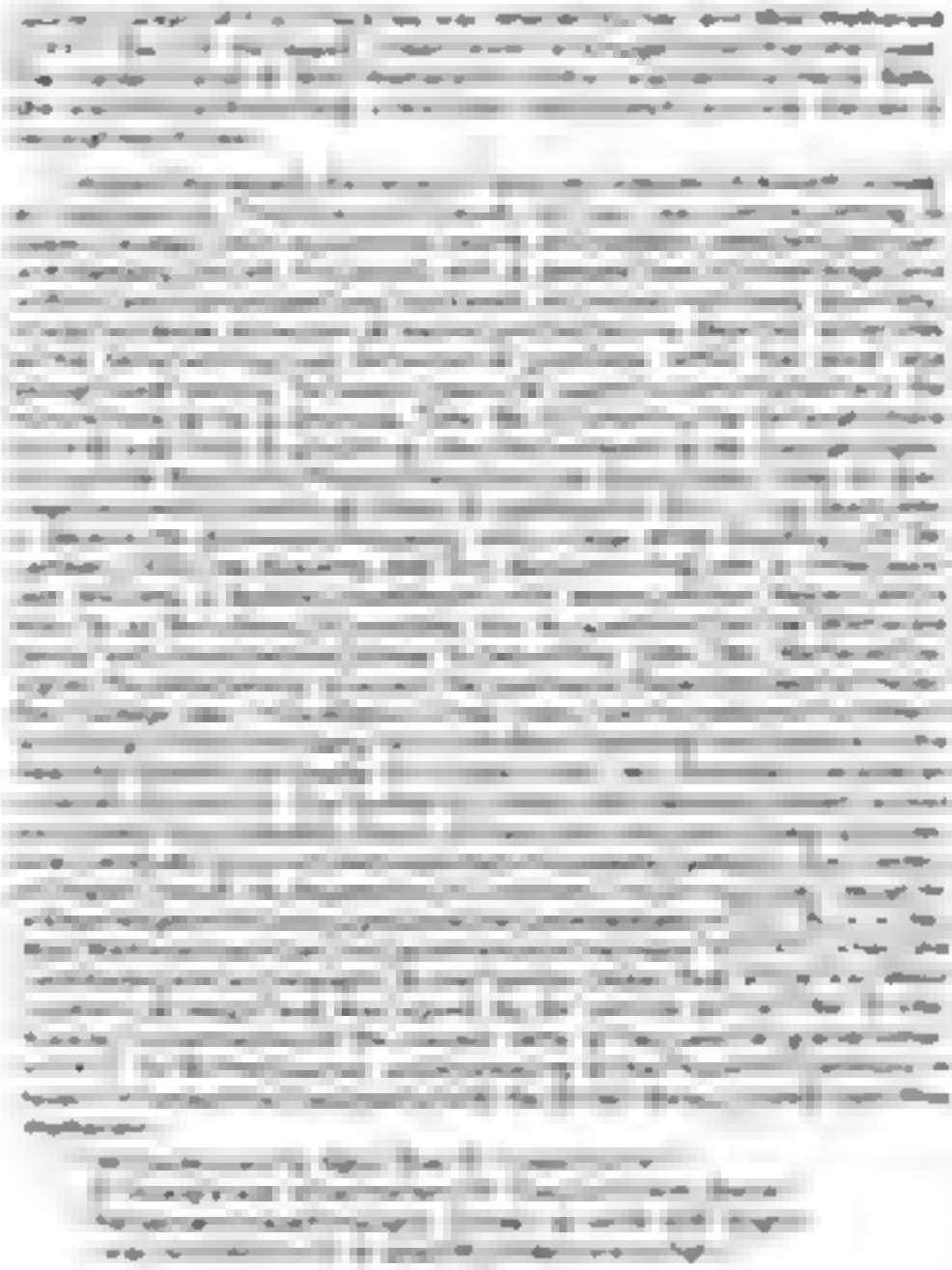
Expert Ball Players Wm. Sunley, Pitcher for Guelph Maple Leafs, Samuel Jackson, Rochester, N.Y

Directors: Dr. James McCullough, Toronto; Dr. Henry Savage, Montreal; Dr. [illegible], London, Eng.; Dr. Robert Farnum, New York; Dr. Adam Farnum, New York; a private subscriber in the Arctic Peninsula; Tavish Dr. [illegible], Montreal, secretary.

[illegible] a long letter to the notes regarding Bookmobile [illegible] Mobile is the first motor library in Britain to [illegible] A [illegible] was [illegible] on the [illegible] Mobile is however, not [illegible] the Bookmobile [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] by the inclusion of names of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the old [illegible]

## 4 V McAree Columnist Globe and Mail

[illegible] McAree [illegible] [illegible] 000 were [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]



[illegible] and was born in Boxborough on Feb. [illegible] 1864. A prolific writer she contributed much to Waterford periodicals in the Hamilton Spectator and was active in the Women's Literary and the East End Big Sister groups. After her death in 1945 [illegible] was Mrs. [illegible] and the [illegible] Boxborough. [illegible] was born in Boxborough [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

## Everton

The next day Monday six sons of the dead man proceeded to Everton Cemetery to dig the grave Only about 4 could work at a time so two proceeded to the hotel at Everton Corners for some whiskey and brought back a plentiful supply Other trips throughout the forenoon resulted in bringing the gravediggers to a standstill where pick and shovel did not always land where they should and quarrels ensued When the 6 boys left for home at late noon Joe says the grave resembled pictures he had seen of shell holes in France

## EVERTON WAS PROSPEROUS VILLAGE AT ONE TIME

### Many Shops Found on the Main Street History of Village Reviewed at Recent Meeting of Everton W.I.

(Guelph Mercury January 9th 1935)

The following history of Everton was read at a recent meeting of the Everton Women's Institute Mrs G A Abbott who had lived in Everton and now lives a short distance away and Mrs Mary Lorde a resident of Everton gave the information and Rev P McLeod Pastor of Everton Church wrote the account Ed note

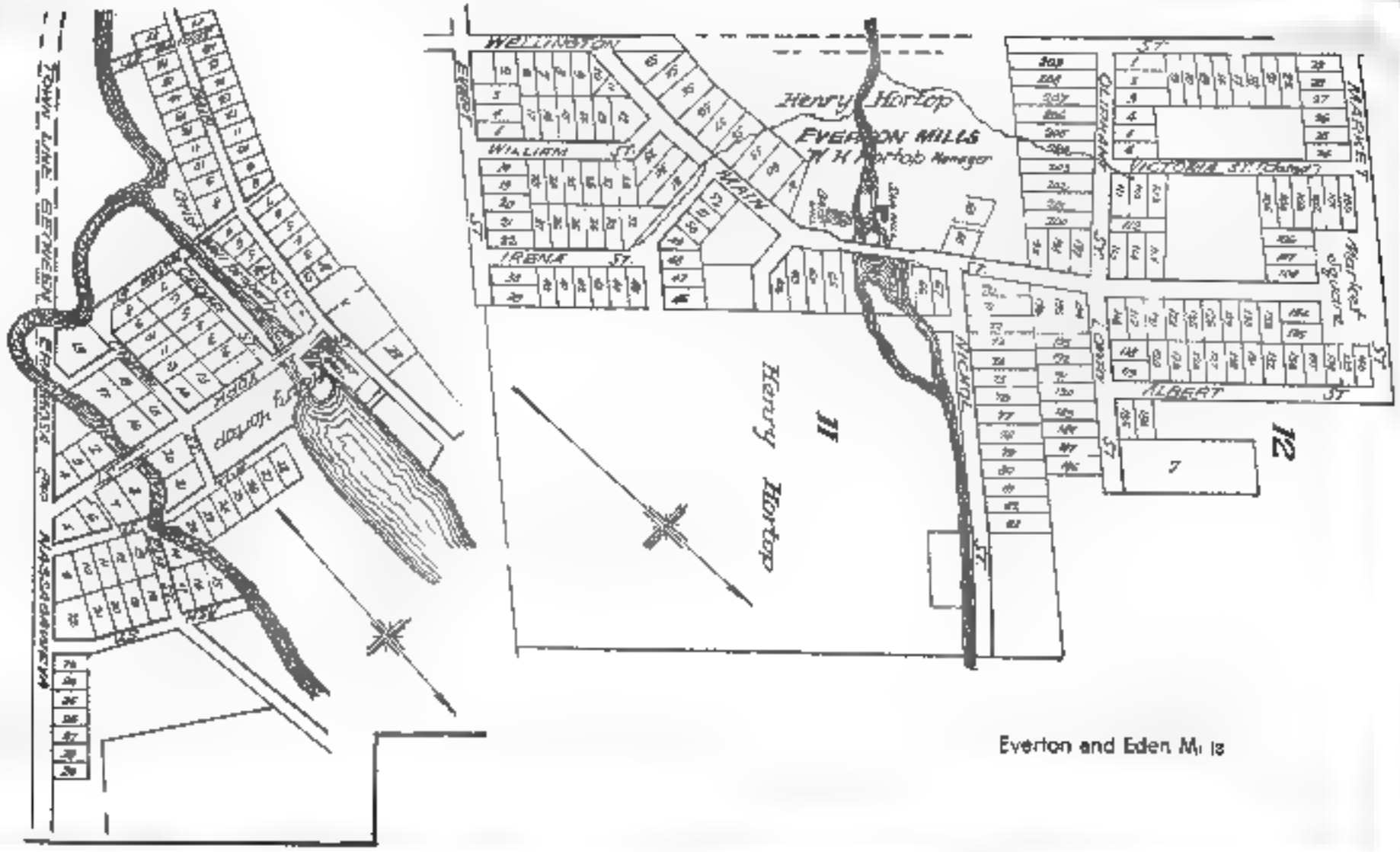
Everton is a hamlet of the village situated on either side of a swiftly flowing branch of the Speed River on the seventh concession of the Township of Eramosa In the early days gave promise of becoming a centre of manufacturing and commercial importance but the railway like the priest in the New Testament story passed by on the one side and the gravelled highway like the Levite passed by on the other and so there was no good Samaritan to come to the rescue Its early promise of greatness succumbed to the deadly blows of competition and the village grew weary in the fight against unequal odds and became as Ah of Italy in Longfellow's poem

> One of those the places that have run
> Half up the hill beneath a blazing sun
> And then sat down to rest as if to say
> I climb no further upward come what may

Nevertheless the story of Everton savours of the romantic Built on a site of quiet and perennial beauty with its winding river swift rapids deep pot holes high overhanging rocks crowned with evergreen cedar pine and spruce surrounded by a rich agricultural country it has a rich and fertile appearance has also given its quota of ambitious personalities to help in the development of the country

This section of the country was originally in the possession of the Mississauga Indians On October 5th 1818 an agreement was made between Hon William Claus Deputy Superintendent General of Indian affairs and five chiefs of the Mississaugas by which a tract of 648 000 acres was surrendered to the government This tract included Eramosa Erin Garafraxa and Luther The Crown lands were given free to settlers who agreed to perform certain settlement duties After a year and a half residence the clearing of a tract of some acres and the building of a house an affidavit before a Justice of the Peace that the law had been complied with a Crown deed was issued

[illegible]




Everton and Eden Mills

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

### SCOUTS BUY SITE FOR CAMP PROGRAM

**Waterloo Association Will Use 141 Acres as Woodcraft Training Ground**

Kitchener Dec 9 1943 (Special) One hundred and forty-one acres of waste land and forest adjoining the village of Everton in Eramosa Township, Wellington County has been purchased as a camp site and woodcraft training ground by the Boy Scouts Association of North Waterloo district

Purchase of the property out of funds recently contributed by district Scouting supporters was announced here yesterday by F W Snyder president of the association

The property which is approximately 25 miles northeast of Kitchener was purchased from Frank Day of Rockwood clerk and treasurer of Eramosa Township

The new site according to Mr Snyder will provide ideal opportunity for pioneering activities which should feature Boy Scout camps Throughout its length flows the Eramosa branch of the Speed River, providing several areas suitable for swimming

Construction of one large building is contemplated at present The would be in the form of a lodge

# Eden Mills

Eden Mills is a village of 500 acres on the townline of Eramosa and Nassagaweya which is also the dividing line between the Counties of Wellington and Halton 300 acres of the village are in Eramosa and 200 in Nassagaweya The village existed from the early days but was only erected into a police village by a bylaw of the Wellington County Council in 1930 Dr A E Byerly in THE BEGINNING OF THINGS has this to say of Eden Mills Eden Mills was founded by the David Kribbs family in 1842 and was first known as Kribbs Mills also corrupted to Cripps Mills Aaron and Daniel Kribbs built a saw mill and a grist mill which they sold to Adam L Argo in 1846 In 1850 he sold the mills to Henry Norlop and the rest of his property to James Argo and John A Davidson For many years Mr Davidson was the leading public man of the village

A map of Eramosa published by The Advertiser Guelph in 1850 price 2s 6d speaking of the Grand or Speed River goes on to say "On a lower branch of the same stream are the Eden Mills owned and occupied by A L Argo Esq comprising a flour mill and saw mill The same gentleman has also a store contiguous Lovell's Directory of 1871 says "Eden Mills A small village on a branch of the River Speed townships of Eramosa and Nassagaweya Counties and Wellington and Halton A large trade is carried on in flour and grain Good building stone is available here Distant from Rockwood, a station on The Grand Trunk Railway, 4 miles From Guelph a station of The Grand Trunk Great Western and Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railways 7 miles from Toronto 45 miles. Mail daily, population about 300 Masheck Bardwell Wm. Bousfield, farmer

## Crowson's Corners

[illegible]

## The Blue Goose

[illegible]

Island. From 921 to 929 Dewey Soper from S S No. 8 Enemose searched for the secret that had baffled experts on natural history for a long time the breeding ground of the blue goose. On June 26th 929 he discovered the first nest and eggs of this species known to man. He had traveled [illegible] years to find the breeding ground of the blue goose [illegible] on its winter home on the west coast of Louisiana. The discovery was hailed around the world as a major advance [illegible] Dewey Soper in Southern Baffin Land also established by the Canadian government in 1930 gives further thrilling stories of the adventures of this famous explorer. Mr. Soper is now a [illegible] Wainwright Alta.

## Evanora Mutual Fire Insurance Company

This [illegible] company organized in [illegible] governed by six directors two of whom are elected at the annual meeting each year for a term of three years. Most of the directors serve for the better part of a lifetime and the company has been extremely fortunate in securing first class men [illegible] high [illegible] and past [illegible] serve as directors. The company [illegible] when the [illegible] Insurance Act [illegible] [illegible] the provincial [illegible] as the times demanded. It has always been the [illegible] of policy holders [illegible] near [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] from [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Throughout its [illegible] years of operation [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

## Transportation

[illegible]

## Index

[redacted]

## BOLTON — A HISTORICAL SKETCH

### Melvin Grant Writes Story of Rise and Fall of Village

[redacted]

Huestable's sawmill was exceedingly busy for a few years for houses and farms were being built in increasing numbers replacing the original log shacks and stables. Then a tragic accident befell Mr. Huestable for he had a leg taken off by the saw. He sold his mill to a young man Nicholas Lynett by name. Lynett dismantled the saw mill and erected a grist mill in its place. The same water wheel furnished power for the huge circular stones which ground the grain. The sawmill was moved downstream not far from the present Shiloh bridge. Mr. Lynett operated the sawmill by steam power in its new location. He sold the saw mill about 1898 and continued the grist mill business.

In the earlier, busier days the people of this section of Ekanoka obtained their mail from Ayrton. A man named Neal Mooney brought mail from Bergen to Speedside, Ayrton and Morrow twice a week. Eventually

Eventually a change was made for a post office was opened in Mr. Lynett's house. This was given the name Shiloh on the suggestion of John Leslie who had a large farm on the south side now owned by Neil Van Vliet. John Leslie was a devout Methodist who had been instrumental in founding Bethel church on the corner of the Hundley farm and he thought Shiloh was both beautiful and appropriate. Mail was now brought from Ayrton to Shiloh and was speeded up a bit. Later a post office was opened at Bethel Hill and was over on the same corner.

About 1884 a Grange movement was started among the farmers of Ontario. This large junior was named the Patrons of Industry. Local groups of farmers banded together to buy warehouses and purchased groceries and other necessities at wholesale cost. Shiloh had its Grange as these local groups were called. A store house was built on the south-east side of the road. This building was later converted to a dwelling house and is now occupied by Mrs. Peters.

The school teacher of that day, Jas. Grant operated the Grange and weighed out sugar, oatmeal and other sundries to the local farmers. Of course this was done in the evenings and on Saturdays. Shiloh Grange had its own charter and a great seal which is still in the possession of Melvin Grant. On this seal is given that Shiloh Grange was organized on May 6, 1886.

The Patrons of Industry passed out in a few years and the Shiloh Grange became just a memory. Shiloh School was greatly overcrowded and a new school section was formed and a new school built on the fourth line S.S. No. 4. Pupils in the Hunter neighbourhood who had belonged to S.S. No. 9 were now transferred to 4 and Shiloh was much less crowded thereafter.

In 1898 a young man and teacher got $.00 per annum in Shiloh.

Lynett's sawmill ceased operations about 1898 but the grist mill continued to about 1907. Lack of water in the summer and ill health combined to force Mr. Lynett to close the mill. George Atkinson operated a more modern steel grinder powered by a steam engine for one or two

winters but the dam which had provided a swimming place for the youth of the district for so many years was gone forever.

In 1900 there were five houses in Shiloh, starting at the south-east end these were owned by [illegible] Beachnor, [illegible] Lizzie Sanderson (who reached the age of [illegible] years), Roderick Mellon and across the road Mrs. Priscilla [illegible] the [illegible] Grange building.

About [illegible] James Mc[illegible] who lived in the former Rodie Mellon house opened a small grocery store which was continued for two or three years.

In [illegible] a mail route from Burkeyard served the fifth and sixth lines of Eramosa and Shiloh post office was revived.

Of the cluster of houses which formed the hamlet of Shiloh only two remain and one has become one of the many ghost villages of rural Ontario. In January of '67 the village with its lighter, the late James Grant had been [illegible] the afternoon. Ferguson on our way home we met Roy Fox [illegible] steam tractor [illegible] one of Shiloh's houses. This house was the one in which James Grant had lived while teaching in Shiloh school [illegible] years before. The building had been jacked up, placed on skids and was being [illegible] slowly along the snowy road to its new destination in Ferguson where it stands today. Of course it has been brick veneered and otherwise remodelled. The old teacher who had only a few more months to live, made a sad farewell to the old house in which he and his bride had started housekeeping over 67 years previously.

With this episode I shall conclude my history of Shiloh.

Mary [illegible]

## Bethel, Little Brown Church

One branch of the Methodists had a church in Erin and a society on the East half of Lot [illegible] Con. 6 known as Copperfield. A member of the Copperfield family gave the land about 1866. Mrs. Lydia Petty, now over 80 and living in Burlington, was a regular attendant in youth and remembers playing in the ruins of the church as a child. The congregation built Bethel, the Brown Church on the South corner of Lot 26 Con. 6. The church operated until March 1925 when the congregation united with Morrison Presbyterian and the Brown Church was sold to the United Church congregation and removed to Hillsburgh where it has a good basement and is quite an asset to the village [illegible].

The opening [illegible] with a concert of old Town Line and Duncaster singers at which [illegible] was a speaker. There was a [illegible] in the temple from 1866 to 1870 along with [illegible] Disciples. The reason appeared [illegible] the phenomenal growth and popularity of Everton Disciples (North and [illegible]) and opened in 1866. For many years from 1866 Everton was probably the most popular church in the township excepting possibly Barrie Hill Presbyterian. From records available for those years it is readily seen that no other congregation in the township approached either Barrie Hill or Everton in numbers or in quality of their church building. Both congregations were exceptionally fortunate in hav-

ing outstanding leaders for long consecutive terms. Dr Wm Barns Pres. Emeritus and Elder James Black. Deceased

## Curtis

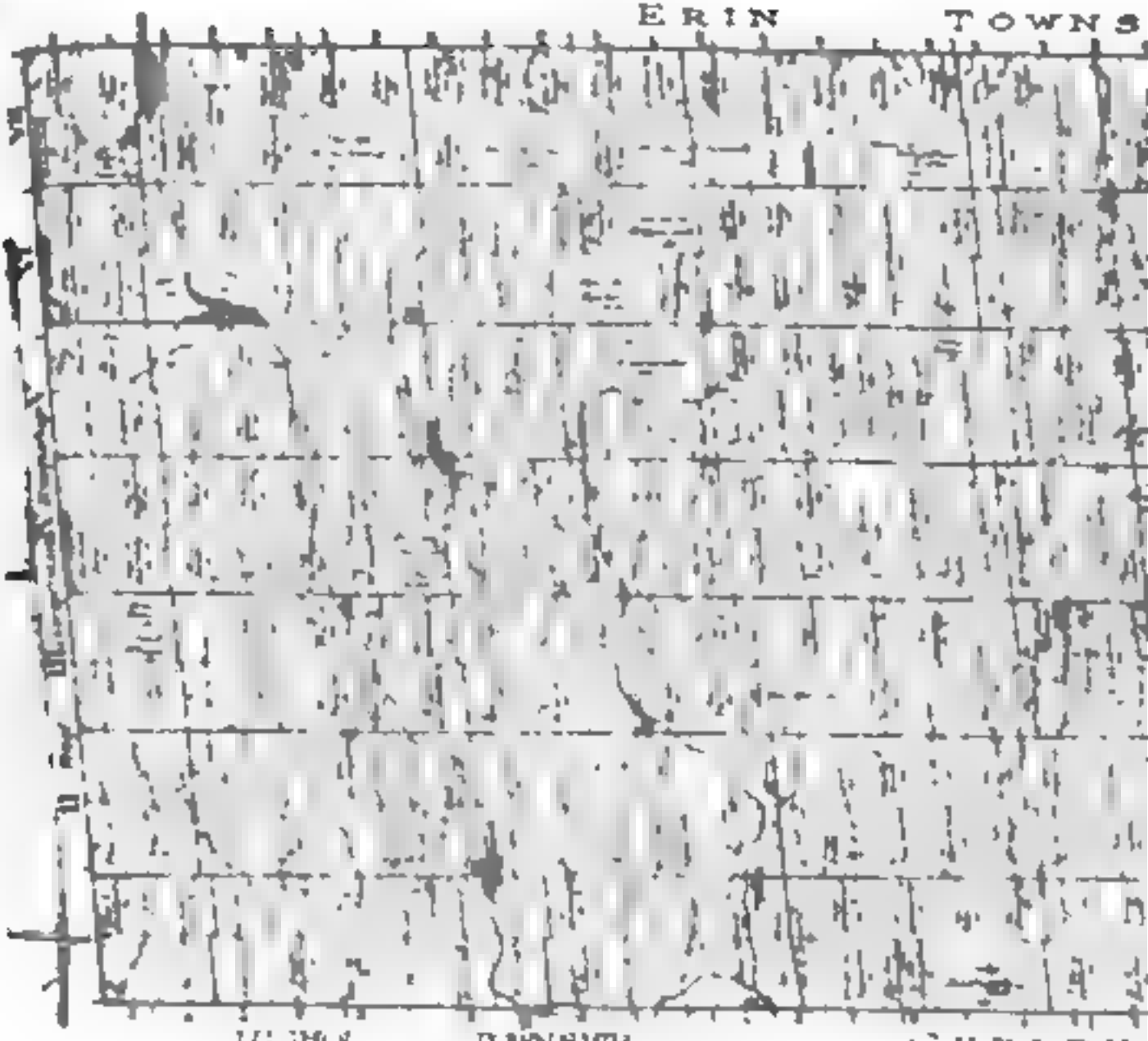
[illegible] progress in the county. Built between the 4th and 5th Cross roads where it crosses the road. The [illegible] and 24. The [illegible] Peters [illegible] the 1st and 2nd [illegible] in each direction. The [illegible] has been used as a school place in the township of [illegible] of Wellington [illegible] a station of the Grand Trunk Railway [illegible] Postmaster [illegible] Adam [illegible] Mr. James Mellor [illegible] Robert [illegible]

## Drumbill

[illegible] of Wellington [illegible] a village of [illegible] a few houses and possibly a [illegible] but [illegible] of its history. There [illegible] History by Rev. [illegible] Drumbill [illegible] on a county [illegible] the Grand [illegible] Drumbill [illegible] the hundred [illegible] John Thring.

## Aaron and Martha Abbott

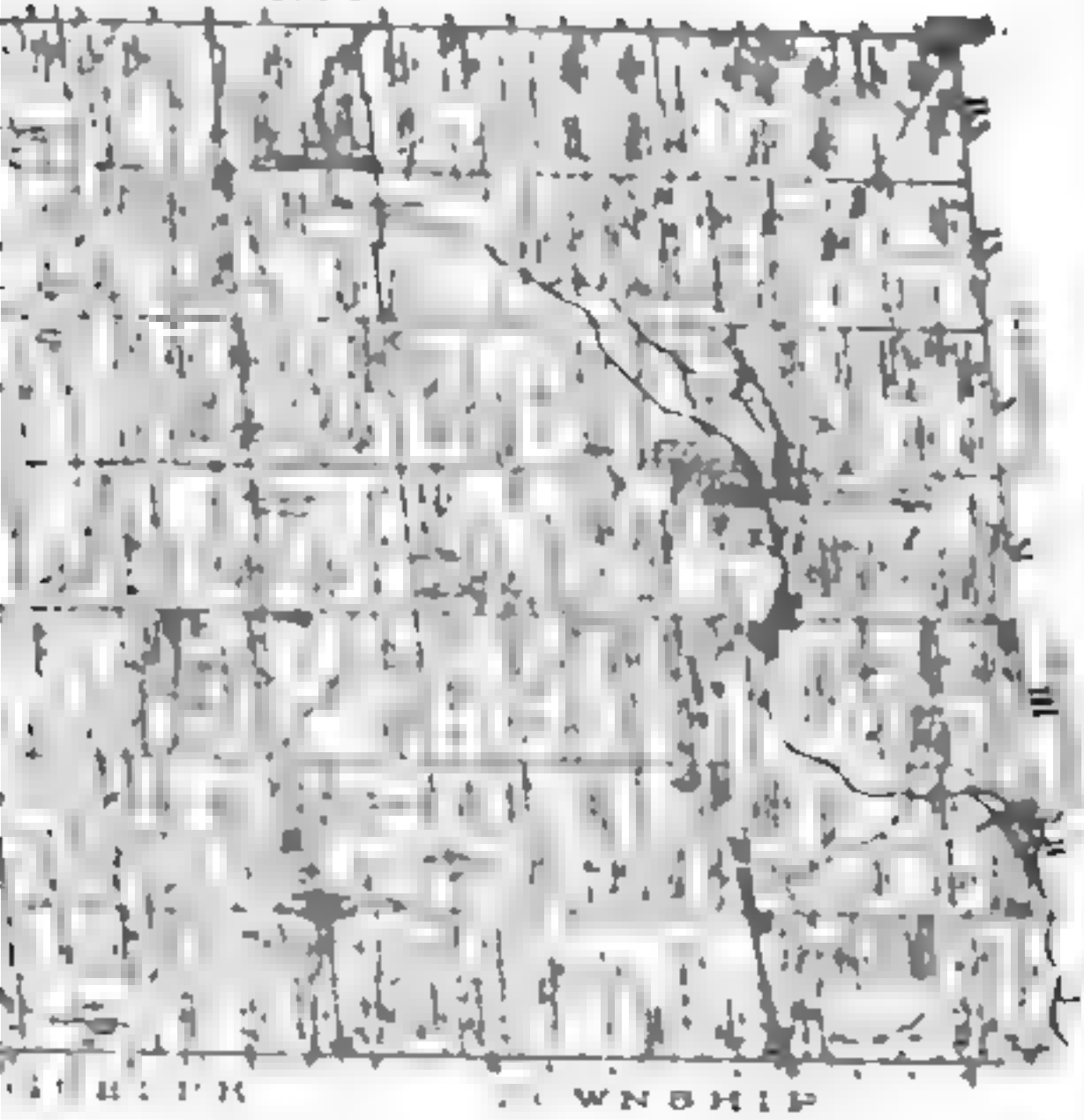
Very early settlers were Aaron and Martha Abbott. They settled on Lot [illegible] many years previous to [illegible] to their neighbour to their northeast, about the south corner of the lot at a point approximately ten rods [illegible] the house. [illegible] of the old [illegible] the two hundred acre [illegible] Martha Abbott [illegible] 26th 1911 aged [illegible] years. [illegible] Aaron Abbott [illegible] never been established [illegible] surrounded by a [illegible] a small plot approximately [illegible] with [illegible] Abbott [illegible] grounds [illegible] in hands [illegible] Abbott [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Aaron Abbott [illegible] Mr. James Abbott [illegible] the [illegible] stone [illegible] Abbott [illegible] Martha Abbott [illegible] Aaron Abbott [illegible] Martha [illegible] Abbott [illegible] Aaron [illegible] Martha [illegible] Abbott [illegible] Aaron [illegible] Martha [illegible] Abbott [illegible] Aaron




TOWNSHIP OF

# ERAMOSA

1906


TOWNSHIP

first night on the new farm sleeping on the ground beside a fallen maple tree. Later they decided to be buried on the spot where they had slept that first night. [illegible] the place was known as Maple Point. It is quite possible that when Martha Ann died in 1853, the tree may have been still standing over the grave.

The Alger family [illegible] prosperity and influence. Fortunes at present by [illegible] that their wealth may have partly come from land speculation [illegible] the welfare of [illegible] Their name is connected with much of the early history of the township by [illegible] The name Alger [illegible] ownership of the most [illegible]

## The Beahams of Eramosa

The passing [illegible] March [illegible] 78th year brings to mind the [illegible] James Beaham [illegible] pioneer that has played a [illegible] He was a [illegible] soldier and Black [illegible] Beaham [illegible] and a director of the famous Mutual [illegible] For many years [illegible] the events of the late Alexander [illegible] a generation [illegible] has [illegible] one [illegible] the war [illegible] say he has [illegible]

The [illegible] James Beaham was James Beaham born [illegible] London England [illegible] the county of Surrey [illegible] the [illegible] He fought [illegible] Europe against Napoleon [illegible] he came to Canada [illegible] and settled [illegible] the township of Eramosa [illegible] William Street.

He settled on the [illegible] and [illegible] township of Eramosa [illegible] years later [illegible] and armed by his grandson Henry Beaham.

James Beaham was a [illegible] He was prominent in municipal affairs holding important positions before the formation of [illegible] township. His interests in municipal affairs led to his being [illegible] with the early days of the township he was [illegible] by George [illegible] agent sent to [illegible] passion and [illegible] James was [illegible] a man many much younger [illegible] the [illegible] the boy [illegible] him a magistrate although [illegible] Peter [illegible] was normally at the head of [illegible] the meeting.

The affair [illegible] a mix-[illegible] although the men were in sympathy with [illegible] a meeting they were loyal to the Crown. Dr. Hugh Templeton of Fergus, some of whose ancestors were on the side of the government, [illegible] to blame the government for the whole affair. James Beaham became the hero of the incident getting credit for saving the lives of his fellow prisoners by warning all of a fire that was creeping near a powder magazine in the gaol.

[illegible] great leadership and [illegible] which my knowledge might be greatly [illegible] Charles Darwin was a kindly gentleman, a devoted friend and [illegible] of the Darwins of Down.

## The Glyphs of Bromous

[illegible]

## John Graham, Gentleman

## James Grant: A Biography

[redacted]

[redacted]

## Pioneer Settlement in Oconee Cave Railway Centres to the World

[redacted]

[redacted]

For many years he and [illegible] made their home with their daughter Ida. Thomas [illegible] husband and now that he was a widower he finds their presence a great comfort in his declining years.

The Rev. [illegible]

Rev. [illegible] of Virginia and a fine [illegible] the pastor [illegible]

[illegible] the pastor [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

an unusual episode some two years ago he was conducting services in the United Church commencing at 11 a.m. The Presbyterian service also being conducted by supply was at 10 for a the service at the United Church the Presbyterian minister arrived by motor having stopped off the bus he had to walk a short way [illegible] the Sunday School room and proceeded through the hall to a door beside the [illegible] A few words between [illegible] and never entered the situation and the look on the face of the minister as he retreated through the door was one to be remembered

There is something refreshing in the way electors will support a man and knock [illegible] to the ground and with a real close family record no matter what party he represents Ross McKenzie deservedly won a whelming victory from his own locality John Bruce's team piling up a Conservative vote in the rural township of Brant and the Sutherland [illegible] vote of Brantford show that party ties are held [illegible] between their personal preferences [illegible] Mr Bruce [illegible] as well he proud of his home support

When the [illegible] have [illegible] of Brant and Dufferin poll a total of 59 to 716 again of a federal government with such a popular candidate as Ross McKenzie there is more than party machinery at work it appears that Boer of Brant and Judge of Dufferin rather than politics were responsible primarily the vote was no indication of the general feeling towards Ross McKenzie who must surely have secured a majority in both townships if he had read or [illegible] instead of at Moorefield

## The Kilgours

James Kilgour with his wife Ann Morton their children and two hundred of Morton's [illegible] and Roberts [illegible] sailed from Kirkcaldy Scotland on 1841 They took up land on the line running from Eastwood to the Guelph Road James Kilgour was born in 1817 an accident in his youth while [illegible] at [illegible] the loss of a leg and this turned him to [illegible] pursuits He had a wide [illegible] and [illegible] before coming to Canada He [illegible] a leg [illegible] greatly handicapped by the [illegible] leg [illegible] He was [illegible] a keen interesting the work of the farm [illegible] preaching [illegible] of over the country to [illegible] Before the [illegible] holding meetings in [illegible] and his [illegible] were often called upon to [illegible] marriage [illegible] [illegible] when the schools first began [illegible] in the [illegible] there were no [illegible] but that Mr Kilgour was appointed [illegible] Public Schools in Guelph Township [illegible] was appointed [illegible] for South Wellington an office which he held for [illegible] years at that time [illegible] as Eramosa was a part of South Wellington Mr Kilgour became well known and very popular with a whole generation of school children He always carried a pocket full of candy and proclaimed a holiday after each inspection About the year 1870 he left the farm on the Eastwood line and moved to Guelph living there until his death in 1893

## The Forepaws

## The Oliphants

[illegible]

## Professor George A. Peters

[illegible]

Prof. [illegible]

[illegible]

not of clay-cold origin and he held that character of the highest kind was the most essential element. Too many of the surgical operations of to-day he claimed to the writer were undertaken not for the benefit of patients, but simply to increase the prestige and enhance the reputations of the operators. To prevent that degradation of surgery as a science and a servant of humanity it was in his opinion imperatively necessary that the surgeon should be of the highest type of manhood.

He bore the impending doom of fate with fortitude. The writer spent an evening with him about three weeks before his death and will never forget the earnestness with which he recited two stanzas of Newbolt's "Vita Lampada"

There's a breathless hush in the Close to-night—
Ten to make and the match to win.
A bumping pitch and a blinding light
An hour to play and the last man in.
And it's not for the sake of a ribboned coat,
Or the selfish hope of a season's fame
But his Captain's hand on his shoulder smote—
Play up! play up, and play the game.

The sand of the desert is sodden red—
Red with the wreck of a square that broke:
The Gatling's jammed and the Colonel dead.
And the regiment blind with dust and smoke.
The river of death has brimmed its banks,
And England's far and Honour a name
But the voice of a school boy rallies the ranks
Play up, play up, and play the game.

He certainly and splendidly played the game to the end through the darkest hours of his life. Ave et Vale.

A. B. Macallum.

The Wellington County Atlas shows that practically all the older families of Eramosa could claim connection with Prof. George A. Peters by descent or marriage. James Peters was one of the most notable men on the second line of Eramosa. He was born in Lancashire, England, and came to Eramosa in 1826 with his mother, brother John and six sisters—Mrs. George Nelson, Mrs. John L. Bridge, Mrs. Isaac Clark, Mrs. Edward Hoxtable and Mrs. John Rae. He took up and cleared lot 23, Concession 2, and lived upon it the remainder of his days. He was the first Township Clerk of Eramosa and held the office for sixteen years. He rendered valuable service in connection with the early municipal life of the township and took an active and vigorous interest in all public or local matters. Mr. Peters and William Armstrong were the principal movers and were generous supporters in the establishment of The Congregational Church at Speedside.

During the trouble of 1837 he took sides with Mackenzie, and with some of his neighbours, was arrested and taken to Hamilton, Ontario, to-

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

## William Sumter's Diary

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

It appears that both the hunters and the Evans were handsome families, like the Crabtrees and Murdocks mentioned elsewhere and were

Thursday 22nd [illegible] the thunder and lightning of last night but one today a cold and windy day but not [illegible] enough although I went part [illegible] the [illegible] will [illegible] making [illegible] got [illegible] [illegible] made and [illegible] a pair for [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

tonight We brought enough of sugar up tonight to make up 75 lbs of sugar in all there is also some sap at the bush

Sunday, 5th Another very fine day Have been rather sick today Two more lambs today each one have only two ewes lambs in all we have We have now 8 lambs now following the ewes and are trying to get the one the ewe refuses Alex has given Johnny one they had in the same pen

Monday, 6th A very fine day Have got out for working I started the east field ploughing today the farthest back field on the north side of the lane There is still a little frost in spots but in the whole it does not do so bad Uncle has started the bush again today and taken in 38 pails of sap John McWilliams was here today to see if I had any more white oats as his father-in-law or perhaps some agreed to let him have some

Tuesday [illegible] fine day, and although a little frost but very fine August B [illegible] plant [illegible] last night there is a bad affair just happened [illegible] and young girls having come to their death by having Strychnine given instead to them by mistake for worm medicine It is said to have been given by the druggist for worm medicine

Sunday, May 11th [illegible], not nearly so fine as well on in the afternoon there came a little [illegible] which caught the oat and only small there had been more on [illegible] much needed Had all the family over to tea today a great treat Was the waggon [illegible] very rough but we got along not so bad

Monday, [illegible] A very cool day this a terrible country the wind blows high today and very piercing but yesterday I went to Thomas Turton's sale [illegible] and [illegible] about one of the plough today and not be too warm [illegible] to do so some today for potatoes Uncle and Willie [illegible] the bush and planted 4 bags of land Had Betty down a few days tonight She had some treatment at L J Stewart's Thomas [illegible] got a calf to suck every today

[illegible] Monday, 8th Had a very [illegible] morning until about 8 o'clock when it cleared up and afternoon I started [illegible] first time this season planting [illegible] might have up all but as yet I [illegible] Between [illegible] started for home again and came by way of the eighth line and [illegible] reached the sand hills had very heavy pulling on the way [illegible] home we found Alex had suffered a very heavy loss in sheep he neglected getting them up during the long cold [illegible] Lost [illegible] ewes [illegible] 7 of them having twins and one of them triplets leaving 4 little orphan lambs It is quite a [illegible]

Sunday June 3rd [illegible] fine day I have getting [illegible] a looking somewhere [illegible] again have written a letter to Wm McCarter today and along with a paper sent it to the Post Office tonight Wm and Peter Marshall with their wives paid us a visit this afternoon and Will took the letter and paper down There is now a terrible excitement about the Fenian invasion the first news of it was on Friday last they

[illegible] of the school house at $[illegible]20 leaving the amount [illegible] 25th Dec to be again raised. Resolved [illegible] the proper places on the road getting the material from another [illegible] got $[illegible]6.00 [illegible] account from Jno McArthur [illegible] Robert Boyce being the amount of Trustees account.

[illegible] another load of wheat to Lancaster sold to Bell the Manufacturer [illegible] $1.[illegible] for 5 bushels at $1.[illegible]4 per cord [illegible] Wheat for [illegible] at the same price.

Saturday [illegible] Patrick and [illegible] prepared 66 bushels of turnips for Malcolm [illegible] we were late in getting away on account of Alex McGregor having [illegible] we got [illegible] Johnstown [illegible] by about 8 o'clock.

Sunday [illegible] Patrick and I started for home after getting dinner [illegible] Mrs Campbell's comfortably quiet and we were home in pretty good [illegible] Mary and Alex.

Wednesday Feb [illegible] Alex has started from the Corners having the morning [illegible] Thomas Nichol and took the start of Alex's team and went [illegible] Nichol's the 4 o'clock boat so he made up to us [illegible] Kingston [illegible] Alex [illegible] Alex Alexander's [illegible] Alex [illegible] Alex [illegible] Alex

chased 8 half-barrels of Salmon Trout at $3.50 each and have them ready to bring with us

Sunday 5th An extra turn of the screw has been put on this morning the frost and cold it intense have kept our horses steadily blanketed and much need they have of it was troublesome this morning everyone preferring the bed to rising to the floor after to see Mr Madden took dinner Nichol and with Wm Mitchell started afterwards for to Alex Thomas he but and going were Daniel Stewart for the usual a pleasant evening there By their Alex and they seem to be comfortable and happy left the horses there along my boy and cart and did them up for the night after was a request for Alex to stay but at Alex's Uncle Nichol does very ill that gets better age seems to be the effect of the cold

Tuesday 28th very fine day Pat has been hopping at him he helped also to load a load of wood which James and I drove home After getting dinner started for Guelph with the cattle along with Geo Cutting and Benjamin and we reached Mr Laird's good time all safe

Wednesday March 1st We started early this morning from Mr Laird's for Guelph with the cattle arriving there at after a weary trial of selling parted with the two heifers for $24 00 and arrived home with the 2 steers It was a most unfavourable day for market prices have not ruled so low for good cattle for some years to was allowed Pat to stay in Margaret and the girls but could not go home with them

Tuesday 7th Thomas Mac has engaged today to come with me for 8 months at the rate of $ per month drove into Guelph with the buggy James Thresher jr also along and had James Thresher's mortgage on was paid and discharged by the sum of $5 3 75

Sunday 9th Cold today and today another storm had to sugar off today or sunday a loss as we were filled up with sap have over 20 lbs of sugar

Sunday April 2nd Dull and cold today the roads are now in a dreadful state Margaret and rode over to Thomas Tolton's this afternoon Belle visited the Douglas a week ago last Friday

Friday 4th Weighed and loaded up 1500 lbs of hay for Rufus Evans said I was right he paid me $8 00 and I and taken tons at $8 00 per ton

Sunday 6th Margaret and took a drive over to Nichol Rogers on a visit with to there Johnny came over in a hurry to inform us that Polly had got her leg broken the came home quickly to find it actually the case Frank the vet at it but her in the stall we had a long job slinging and working with her Henry Duffield Wm Jeston Thomas Cutting and Richard McWilliams kindly helped us

Tuesday 25th went to Everton tonight and agreed to give Mr Mc Cairney the house for the term of 6 months at the rate of $6 00 per month, we give him the garden but reserve all the fruit

Monday June 24 Fine today. Have been riding on horseback considerably today. received [illegible] issue in the amount of $800.00 and [illegible] $ 25. [illegible] and my fees are yet to be paid agreed to take $ [illegible] Preparing to start for Rockford and [illegible] over to Thomas tonight.

Tuesday [illegible] morning but very warm. Thomas and Belle with Margaret and Ada [illegible] for Rockford [illegible] but the horses [illegible] [illegible] but before [illegible] day and evening made [illegible] after dark and the horses [illegible] quite much.

Wednesday [illegible] Rockford had a [illegible] shower this morning which [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the country up here. We started again after breakfast by way of the [illegible] Valley [illegible] and [illegible] the Tiger's Farm. The road between the valley and Rockford are [illegible] [illegible] the morning by weather having completely [illegible] everything up [illegible] and the last Rockford grade [illegible] and after a little delay at noon [illegible] Ada where we found all well. Ben James [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and he took care of both well.

Thursday 27th Rockford Everything at home seems to be very dry. Ben Ada's crops appear to be suffering rather more than many on the road whose [illegible] [illegible] have prevented drought.

Friday 28th Thomas and Ben Ada and myself took a drive round by the 9th [illegible] Vincent and were much pleased with the appearance of the country.

Saturday July 1st Open-air [illegible] day and far away from home had a walk over Ada's farm and afterwards made ready for the excursion to Pentonga shore. The train was late in [illegible] having to the [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] a general rush was made to get aboard and [illegible] were made to get in the way again. We had a beautiful run down to the Pentonga sands there was rather a stiff breeze however which kept the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Margaret and Belle [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] through and beyond the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Uncle Nichol was the wonder of us all he enjoyed himself and through out the [illegible] and after [illegible] and after partaking of supper at James Allen drove us all up to the home

Sunday [illegible] morning the male party and started for home at about [illegible] o'clock [illegible] we [illegible] in the Boat and we piled [illegible] and getting him and his [illegible] We were long in reaching [illegible] on account of the [illegible] they had some trouble [illegible] We [illegible] Allens [illegible] We got [illegible] Allens [illegible] there [illegible]

Monday [illegible] Thomas [illegible] Edna and Willie Fleet had [illegible] Thomas [illegible] and [illegible] should [illegible] Mr [illegible] and [illegible] we made the most [illegible] of [illegible] and were well entertained [illegible] Allens [illegible] $1.00 A [illegible] and some [illegible] people [illegible] [illegible]

Tuesday [illegible] and [illegible] I [illegible] whether or not [illegible] Mrs [illegible] and [illegible] Mrs [illegible] [illegible] we [illegible] Mrs [illegible] [illegible] Mrs [illegible] [illegible] Mrs [illegible]

up what are cut on Saturday evening have engaged Alex McGilvray to work for us until he makes a month (26 days), at $12.00. I think he has 10 or 11 days in now.

Tuesday 15th Terribly hot and sultry. Very heavy thunderstorm came on at noon and a most opportune rain it was looked almost like a special providence. Everton was threatened with a most fearful fire and just as it seemed ready to envelope everything in its relentless grasp then came the timely rain. Mark Sutton had about [illegible] acres of good wheat burned clear off.

Saturday Sept 9th Very dry. Thom and I have been ploughing at the rough part of the summer fallow the part of Bro. Alex old farm. About 4 o'clock a little the mares in Everton got 2 shoes put on Polly's front feet she has showed these 2 days back and seems to stand it finely.

Tuesday 26th Rained considerable last night and looks very dull this morning for the fair however by 1 o'clock and off we go. Johnny makes the first start with the Buggy all and We go with the colts Fanny and I with Bella and Alex follow with the waggon. Great show of stuff we take 2nd prize for fall wheat 2nd for the peas and 4th on the bread. All the oxen were better and fatter than ours the colts also the peas were entered in the wrong class.

Friday 29th Was up before 5 this morning and along with James Morton went to Neil McPhee's place with the sewing machine we did a very good day's work at sewing order blocks 8 inches long for laying his cattle stable floors with.

Sunday Oct 8th Dry and windy. The fires are starting again in some places this is a wonderful dry October.

Monday 9th Continues as dry as ever and the wind is driving the fires considerably. I got Dick and Fanny shod in Everton today while there Johnny rode down to inform me that his mother had taken ill. I drove hard to Rockwood to send the Doctor he got along in good time and twin boys were born about 8 o'clock.

Wednesday 11th There is a great rush to Guelph today there are now reports of a tremendous fire at Chicago.

Thursday 9th Weather much as usual such a continued drouth is almost unprecedented cool and windy many of the fires around are as threatening as they were in the earlier part of the season.

Friday 20th Dry dry and with the terrible Chicago disaster one can hardly think themselves safe while such weather lasts the wells in the country are drying up many are dry.

Monday 23rd Continues smoky and dry as ever the fires around are reviving again and in many places doing harm.

Wednesday Nov 1st Rain last night and today and not the best promise from the look of the morning it cleared up however I was at Guelph and sold one tub of butter at 9c per lb it weighed 100 lbs clear

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

and 80c corn, in all $2.82 paid by cheque for $8.00. $5.20 left a balance for me

Tuesday 11th Froze up again last night and it is very slippy and dangerous to walk over the ice today walked up to the corner this morning to Tovell's with my late purchase of a pair of pants to see if they would take them for exchange for a size smaller I walked over to Henry Cutting's and have written a letter to sister Bessie, South Vancouver

## A Pioneer Family

Having planted the seeds which grew the first apple trees in the county of Wellington, is part of the interesting story of the pioneer family of John and Rachel Ramsey

In 1819 John Ramsey in company with two brothers Robert and Henry recent emigrants from north of Ireland to the State of New York, left there to settle in Upper Canada Little York (now Toronto) was then the hub of the new settlement

The township of Eramosa was then in the course of survey and open for settlers After taking the Oath of Allegiance the three brothers drew 100 acres each in the new township John drew the east half of Lot No. 1 Robert the west half of Lot No 1 and Henry the west half of Lot No 2, all in the Third Concession

Journeying on foot from Little York by way of Dundas Street following the surveyors blaze which is now the Guelph Road through the townships of Nelson and Nassegeweya, they arrived at their destination. After examining their lots they returned to Dundas Street Nelson township, where they worked for John Cleaver making oak staves for potash barrels which were rafted down the lake to Montreal

In the spring of 1820 the three brothers provided themselves with a few articles of which the axe was the most essential and again walked over twenty miles through the unbroken forest to the allotted place, which was to be their future home.

On John Ramsey's lot the surveyors had left a wigwam This served the brothers as a shelter until they completed a log shanty which served them as a dwelling for about four years

In 1821 John Ramsey married Rachel Cleaver the daughter of his former employer After the wedding ceremony she mounted a horse already heavily loaded with equipment and set off with her husband for their wilderness home Mrs Ramsey had the disquieting knowledge that there was not another white woman within twenty miles She is reputed to have been the first white woman resident in the county of Wellington.

From apples served at their wedding breakfast, Mrs. Ramsey saved a few seeds which she planted. From these seeds came the first apple trees grown in the county of Wellington.

On February 28 [illegible] was born. An amusing incident happened with the birth of the baby. The family, on hearing the happy news of the new arrival, sent to the nearest church of John Hess, located [illegible] Switzerland, two miles from the village where they lived to the family Martha (b. [illegible]) and John in 1825.

[illegible] was made [illegible] across the road in the spot [illegible] Henry Hess. Assuming that new duties [illegible] the [illegible] with the [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] higher.

Tragedy [illegible] when after only seven years of married life [illegible] husband and father was called the death [illegible] on [illegible] with three small [illegible] to [illegible] Barney, [illegible] only nine years, [illegible] to [illegible] figure coming to [illegible] village [illegible].

[illegible] was married to [illegible] of Roanoke [illegible] on [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] where they [illegible].

When [illegible] the family was about a month of age the mother [illegible] and [illegible] to [illegible] boys at the husband [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Mrs. John Ramsey, (Rachel Cleaver) first white woman settler in Eramosa

JOHN REA
"Father of the Council"

and happy made from the extra supply of milk. A calf was killed and its stomach used to prepare the rennet for the cheese.

As we laugh these homely old pioneer family ways we feel that it can truly be said of them as it was of the Pilgrim Fathers:

> [illegible]
> They [illegible]
> They have left unto us not what they found
> [illegible]
> Mrs. Hemans' "Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers"

A grandson of Duncan and Ann Matheson was born in Bramosa.

## The Pioneer Sundays

[illegible] of the Sundays of pioneering and [illegible] was the [illegible] Methodist Circuit Rider who came to [illegible] and the [illegible] preached in a shoemaker's shop [illegible] Presbyterian [illegible] which he began [illegible] [illegible] of his death [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

ten years with the notable aggregation which brought such baseball fame to the Royal City.

The Sundays were connected by many ties with such Fransosa families as the Parkinsons, Bonhams, Turvey, Waterhouse, Sorbers, Days, and Howlands. It is noted that while Mayor George Sunday was a supporter of William Lyon Mackenzie, his brother Noah, leader of the band, was a supporter of James [illegible] and [illegible] John A. Macdonald.

## The Woodbrough Family

William Woodbrough [illegible] was a soldier in the British Army. He served in the Peninsular War [illegible] at the battle of Waterloo. He died at the age of [illegible]. His wife Barbara Hickman, who [illegible] died at 92. He came to [illegible] and settled near Aurora, where he lived retired on his pension. [illegible] Esther, George and Robert. [illegible] Elizabeth died in Georgetown, Thomas died in [illegible], Mrs. James Howe and Mrs. James Long. [illegible] Mrs. W. Dickson [illegible] Hadley and William.

William [illegible] was [illegible] and came to Canada in [illegible] with his parents. He [illegible] 50 acres on Lot 26 Con. [illegible] from which [illegible] year old he learned the [illegible] and purchased Lot 28 Con. [illegible]. He married Barbara [illegible] the death of his wife Ann Head died in 1876. He and Barbara [illegible] there and built the brick house, the only house remaining [illegible] in the hamlet of Bankhead. His second wife was Mrs. Barbara [illegible]. He died in [illegible] aged 91 and is buried in Mackay's cemetery, Pickering [illegible]. Mrs. Nat Barker, William, Mrs. Foster Baker, H. Thomas, [illegible] and Mrs. [illegible] Baker, Mrs. R. B. Roberts and Mrs. [illegible].

Esther H. Woodbrough received her public [illegible] as a teacher at Ottawa Normal School and taught at No. 6 Fransosa and at No. 8 [illegible] in the 1870's. She [illegible] a few years [illegible] and returned to farm on Lot 4 [illegible]. She retired to Aurora in 1917 and died there in 1923 aged [illegible]. She was the [illegible] Augusta Weatherhead of [illegible] and Margaret A. Weatherhead [illegible] Reeve of Aurora and Warden of [illegible]. [illegible] Anne Weatherhead formerly Reeve and a [illegible] died in [illegible] 1949 aged 88 [illegible]. He [illegible] and built the present [illegible] and becoming the President and Governing Manager [illegible]. His daughter Edith [illegible] Hamilton, Mary Augusta [illegible] Mackenzie [illegible] Anne M. married Albert [illegible] Anne [illegible] Toronto, [illegible] Fransosa where four children were born. Hugh, M.A., [illegible] Math. Dept. of Central High School [illegible]. He married [illegible] and [illegible] Aurora, Ont. Margaret E. married Dr. [illegible] of Bankhead and [illegible] Mary Margaret and Christopher. R. A. George [illegible] Day's Post Master at Bankhead. He married [illegible] daughter of Bankhead [illegible] Joan E. Marion E. Day Reg. N. [illegible] and F. L. Milton Cr. Cooper B.S.A. of Hamilton [illegible]

[illegible] Day, B.Sc., proprietor of Trunk Terminals Ltd., Toronto.

Thomas is the third son of the Bracebridge [illegible] Harriet and Benjamin Bowes of Bangor and was born on the 100 Bangor and a quarter. P.E. was going from Toronto for his hundred [illegible]

## A Drive to Novembe

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

## Bromsgrove Township Officials Arrested as Rebels in 1837

[illegible]

[illegible]

Peters aged 36 Bertram aged 49 and Bertram aged 43 were supposed to be the organizers of the gang of rebels who were planning to march to Guelph to burn the town down

[illegible]

[illegible]

## Crime in the Township

[illegible]

defend her self from the butchering knife. To add to the horrors of this appalling tragedy, it is the decided opinion of the medical gentlemen at the post mortem examination that the unfortunate was committed after death. The body of the unfortunate girl, having been conveyed to the house of her parents, an enquiry was immediately instituted by the Sunday morning and the coroner [illegible] enquiry by a jury [illegible] proceeded to the spot, and after viewing the remains, when after the death [illegible] having the perpetrator of the crime [illegible] quest was adjourned.

A larger [illegible] assembled by the [illegible] adjourned enquest [illegible] evidence [illegible] available papers [illegible] believe the public may rest assured that the [illegible] will use every exertion to bring to justice the perpetrator of this diabolical act. The police [illegible] that this is the third murder that has taken place [illegible] months. God grant that we may never have to record another.

## Money for Sale

Auction Sales advertisements for many years carried the note "12 months credit approved [illegible]". Hastings solicitor had an auction sale when he retired from the town. He was born in Australia in 1827, his father Joseph [illegible] from Yorkshire. Hastings [illegible] Can.) was one of the [illegible] the [illegible] supposedly the richest man [illegible] Hugh [illegible] The [illegible] what [illegible] Barker [illegible] a [illegible] of business at [illegible] A [illegible] was held in [illegible] months credit. The [illegible] the [illegible] the average sales were around $100.00 or [illegible] As [illegible] common practice for a young farmer [illegible] years [illegible] 12 months credit [illegible] farmer [illegible] as [illegible] the law for [illegible] to a new crop with which to meet payment of the note.

## Justices of the Peace

From the very earliest days Justices of the Peace were appointed with wide powers. Probably the first of these was Joseph Parkinson, J.P. born at Preston, Lancs. England. He married Ellen Hodkinson and settled on 100 acres in Bromyard in 1854. Many of the earlier municipal documents bear his signature as J.P. He died in 1881. Other Justices of the Peace were Robert Boyce, James Buck, Henry Strange, [illegible] John Stone, Thomas Cowlishaw, Roy A. Brooks, Walter P. Berry, Joseph J. Aitken, William Henry Wilson, Paul John Lange, Thomas Wilson and Frank Day. In 1934 the Liberal government under Premier Stretton Hargrave found

that after prolonged Conservative administration, most of the Justices of the Peace were Conservative they withdrew or revoked all commissions in the Province and appointed a few Commissioners for Affidavits. No new Justices of the Peace have since been appointed for Eramosa, but John A Little, William F Grieve and Norman S Marshall were appointed Commissioners for Affidavits A rural Reeves Deputy Reeves and Clerks were authorized to act as Commissioners for Affidavits and a few Justices of the Peace were appointed in larger centres With a Reeve Deputy-Reeve, Clerk and 2 Commissioners the service regarding affidavits is fairly good in the township but there is not the same coverage as in 1934 with 7 Justices of the Peace a Reeve and Clerk Revision of the Justices of the Peace Act was probably necessary in order to curtail the powers granted All the commissions contained instructions to Sheriffs and Police to obey the Justice of the Peace an order that was hardly practicable in this century It is noted that just as this record goes to press, the Globe and Mail of Sept 29th, 1950 announces that Gordon R Dryden of Eramosa Township has been called to the bar Gordon Dryden is a descendant of Eramosa's first Justice of the Peace Joseph Parkinson and a descendent of Thomas Dryden who came to Eramosa about 1828

**A few citizens or descendents of citizens of Eramosa who have become prominent elsewhere--**

Adsett Rev Chas M A B D Windsor Ont
Argo, James Reeve of Fergus, Ont
Brydon, Rev Douglas A B.S.A Ripley Ont
Cripps Alger Town Councilor Georgetown Ont
Day Fred M A Author of "Junior Comm. Arithmetic" Hamilton, Ont
Dickieson William A Warden of Wellington County
Douglas, Miss Dorothy Missionary Presbyterian Church in Canada.
Dryden, Dr George Illinois.
Dryden, Dr James R
Duff Sir Lyman P Chief Justice of Canada
Farries Dr Adam New York
Farries Dr Robert New York
Farries Rev Dr Francis W
Forsyth K M Air Force hero in World War II
Fraure R Bruce Councilor Guelph Township.
Geiger Rev Gordon R B A B.D Binbrook, Ont
Gordon Rev Douglas R B.A. Dunnville Ont
Graham Rev William, M A B D Powell River, B.C
Gray David Donald Warden of Wellington County
Harris C Gordon M A B D Manitowaning, Ont.
Hindley Miss Alice Reg N Ontario Welfare Department
Hindley Rev John.
Hindley Rev George J S.A
Hill James J J S.A Railway Magnate.
Hosking, Dr Fred J. Hillsdale, Ont
Hosking, Capt Henry A M P for South Wellington
Jolliffe, Rev C J P Missionary to China.

Jolliffe, E B, Q C M P P C C F Opposition Leader
Jolliffe Rev Dr R O Missionary to China.
McAree J V Globe and Mail Columnist
McFadzen D F Alderman, Guelph City Council
McLean Sims Warden of Wellington County
Munro Col John M P P Warden of Wellington County
Oakes W J [illegible]our Nor Ai or Ont
Oakes, Dr Frank [illegible] Mayor of Acton
Peters Drs George A Watson John B and Joseph H
Ree, John Father of the [illegible] Warden of Wellington County.
Soper J Dewey Dominion Wild Life Officer Edmonton Alta.
Stokely Sybil Hosking Missionary to Angola.
Talbot Peter M P for [illegible]atchewan Alta
Thatcher Ross C C F M P for Moose Jaw Sask.
Thring James A Force Hero World War II
Tovell Rev Ames Outside Minister Guelph
Watson G Morton B A B Paed Principal G R Allan School Hamilton
Weatherston Marion McNabb) Asst Principal Guelph Bd of Education
Wetherald Ethelwyn Noted Poetess
Whiteside H B M P for Swift Current, Sask.

Rockwood, Ont

Dr A E Byerly Guelph.
Dear Sir

In connection with your mention of a chair factory and a tannery on part of the East [illegible] of Lot 6 Concession 3 Tp of Eramosa. Mr John Pesmore of Rockwood, a son of the late Robert Pesmore the first postmaster at Rockwood remembers hearing his father speak of a chair factory on the property

In 1852 Fred McDonald a tanner aged 32 was assessed for 3 acres on this lot together with a horse at 15 Pounds and at cow at 3 Pounds. Joseph Murphy paid the taxes on the lot in 1851 with 220 acres adjoining, and in 1853 Fenton McCraw was owner and was assessed for 4 head of cattle at 16 Pounds Neither McDonald or McCraw appear on the roll for 1854 and the land was assessed as non-resident

The letter you mention as having been written by William Oliphant on April 20th 1853 was at the instance of the Township Council At a meeting on Apr 8th at the Centre Inn Lazarus Parkinson Town reeve, was called away and James English was chairman the other councillors present were Donald Black James Mitchell and Robert Royce Messrs Black and Mitchell sponsored the following resolution which was passed "Ordered that the sum of 25 Pounds be appropriated by this Council to meet the Government grant for the establishment of Public School Libraries throughout the Province that the Clerk be directed to communicate with the chief Superintendent of Schools on the subject and that so soon as the said sum shall be required the Reeve be authorized to draw on the Treasurer for the amount and pay it to the party duly authorized to receive the same"

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

## The Annals of the Town of Guelph, 1877

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

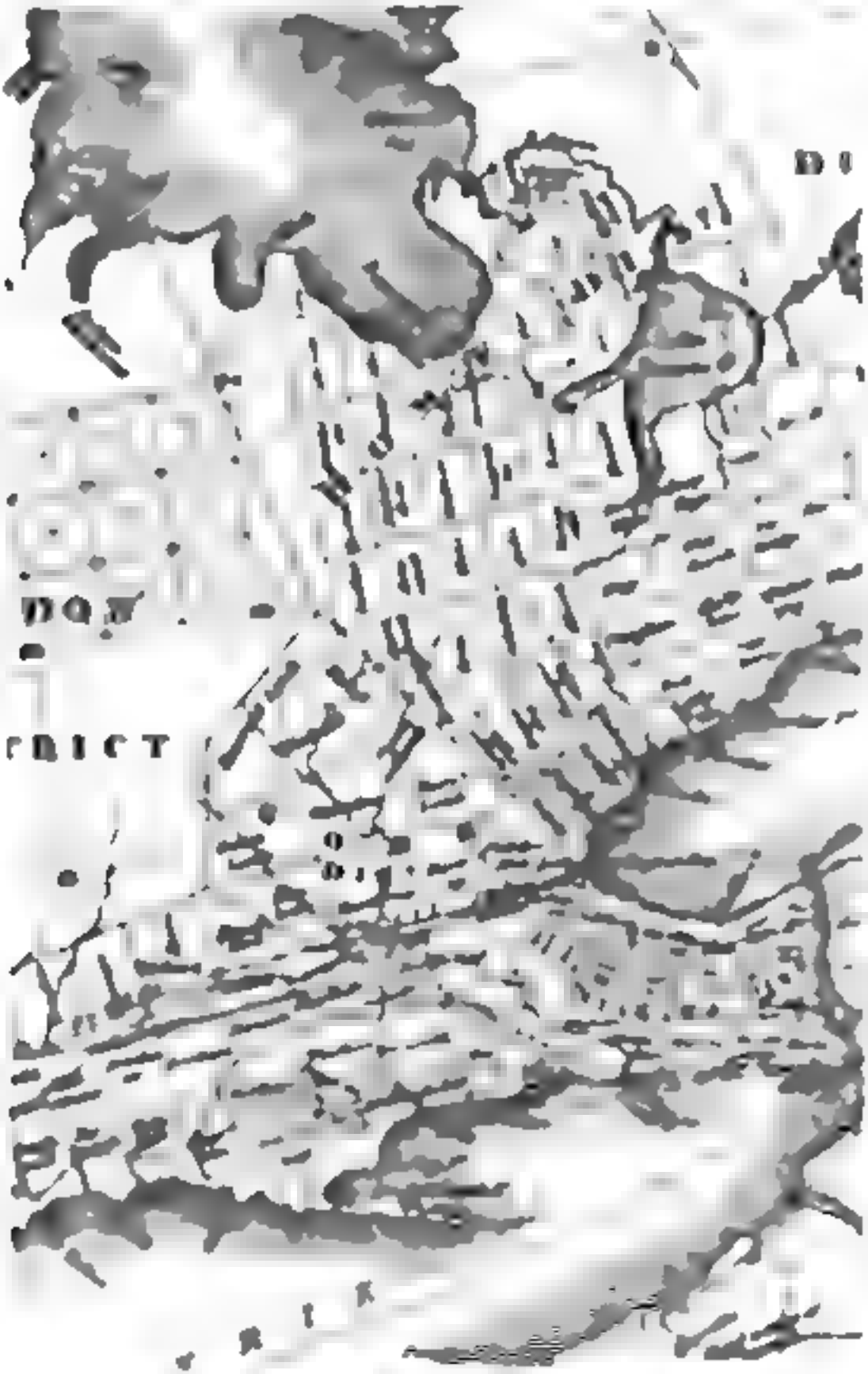
[illegible]

[illegible]

nternal injuries. He lingered, mostly in an unconscious state, until the following Saturday, when he died. He was succeeded in January, 1868 by James Ross, of Cumnock, who vacated the office of Crown Lands Agent at $ 000 to $1200 per annum in order to become M.P

Periodically Guelph must be a scary place in which to live, with Eramosa rebels ready to pounce on it in 1838, and Rockwood Orangemen looking for battle, infesting the place in 1856. The Railway Company rather than Eramosa is blamed for the death of Dr Parker M.P., in 867 but it is duly recorded that a sick Rockwood child was ndirectly responsible.

Eramosa stil persists in plaguing Guelph or sections thereof in 949 In the Dominion election, Henry A. Hosking, an Eramosa boy carried off the honours, while another Rockwood boy, Chas. F eeaman, ran as C.C.F candidate. Ed. Jolliffe, of Rockwood, the Provincia C.C.F. leader, is also considered a pest by many of Guelph's leading citizens.



# INDEX


PAGE

Abbott 124-138
Academy 114
Acton Free Press 70
Adsett 5 36 76 77, 81
Aldous 36, 73
Allan 78
Alton 4
Anderson 118
Anglican 64
Argo 7 4 , 29
Arkell 66
Armour 92
Armstrong 7 8. 30 58, 62. 86. 92, 93
Ascension 70
Ash 6
Alton 80
Awrey 78. 79
Ayles 96

Belmeville 75
Barden 131
Barker 93
Barrie 56, 57, 75. 85, 86, 87 89, 91
Barrie Hill 85
Barry 48, 74
Bates 68
Baugh 70, 72
Bayne 57, 61
Beattie 9
Beaumont 12
Beck 27
Bell 85
Benham 4, 8, 9. 32 66, 73, 82 92, 94, 139
Bertis 62
Bernard 70, 73
Bethel 137
Bethesda 132
Bethune 70
Bichan 94
Bingham 61 91
Black 5, 7 8. 9 19, 26. 32 33. 36, 37, 48. 51, 89, 90, 92, 141
Blue Goose 132
Bolton 94

PAGE

Booth 76
Bowie 75
Brand 83
Brillinger 47, 73
Brooks 64, 73. 75, 92
Brotherstown 96. 150
Brown 93
Browne 71
Brydon 87
Buchanan 88
Bull 70
Burlingham 47
Burns 26, 32, 33, 35. 57, 58
Burt 179
Butchart 6. 86 129
Byerly 6, 86. 96

Carraghan 48. 75
Cameron 58
Carman 79
Carr 118
Carter 8
Carton 59
Casani 77
Caspell 83
Caven 87
Christie 86
Citizens 189
Clarke 68, 93, 99
Cleaver 90
Cleghorn 5
Clow 80
Cole 79
Comfort 36
Cook 82, 84, 94
Cooke 71, 73
Cooney 53, 54
Cooper 82
Copeland 137
Coram 55
Couling 125
Coulson 77
Councils 11, 15
Cox 48, 76, 78, 81
Craig 83
Cranston 58
Crewson's 131

PAGE

Crime 186
Cripps 34, 119
Croft 58, 63, 64
Cromaboo 119
Cummins 8
Currey 80

Dale 85, 87, 88, 92, 94
Damper 121
Davison 29, 66, 67, 76
Day 4, 35, 36, 60, 61, 62, 68
Deeds 43
Denny 92
Denroche 69
Dickeson 8, 63
Ditts 62, 84
Dixon 71
Dodds 58, 89
Doherty 74
Dolmage 55
Donald 76
Donaldson 59 84
Downey 28
Dredge 58
Drinkwater 6, 68, 100, 138
Drumhill 66, 138
Dryden 30 31, 56, 58 86
Duff 51, 93, 94, 95
Duffield 5, 8, 28 86
Dunbar 33, 34, 37, 55, 73
Duncan 80
Durker 62
Dyer 62

Eddy 84
Eden Mills 130
Elections 42
Elliott 60, 61, 69, 94
Entwistle 77
Eramosa Mutual 133
Evans 84
Everton 120
Everts 41, 125, 127

Fair 79, 83
Farmer's Shed 109
Farnham Plains 72
Farr 77
Ferries 33, 37
Ferrish 34
Finegan 74
Firstbrook 28
Fitzsimmons 77
Fletcher 8, 149
Foote 81
Fordyce 7
Forester 155
Fountain 126
Fraser 65, 66
Freure 94
Fuller 70

Gardiner 87
Gerstang 96
Geiger 84
Gerrie 93
Gibb 73, 177
Gibbons 48, 74
Gibson 76
Gilbertson 63
Gleeson 74
Godden 71
Gordier 61
Gordon 27, 58, 60, 61, 63
Gosselin 62
Gracey 94
Graham 37, 58, 60, 143
Grandy 78
Grant 75, 76, 77, 79, 80, 135, 144
Grasley 78
Gray 4, 8, 9, 10, 58, 63, 64, 77, 79, 129
Grierson 31
Grieve 8
Griffin 179
Grindell 127
Guild 96

Hall 58, 70
Hamilton 8, 71, 73, 77
Harper 94
Harris 5, 26, 32, 33, 34, 35, 55, 59, 60, 65, 66, 84, 96, 97
Harwood 63
Head 121
Heffernan 96
Hepher 12
Hewat 66

PAGE

Hill 24, 26, 33, 36, 53, 56, 149
Hindley 5, 36, 76, 79, 94
Hodgkinson 84
Hopkins 84
Hortop 125, 127
Hosking 37, 59, 60, 61 177
Hunt 94, 96
Hutchinson 4
Hyndman 79

Industry 110
Ingles 25
Inglis 51

Jessop 76, 77, 78, 79
Jestin 125
Johnston 52 55, 62 88, 91, 97
Jolliffe 23, 48, 59 61, 153
Justices 188

Kay 87
Kaye 79
Kean 28
Kehoe 48, 74
Kellerman 72
Kelley 94
Kenny 95
Kerr 178
Kilgour 29, 154
Kilpatrick 87
Kingsbury 36
Kinnes 53
Kitching 58, 60, 96
Knight 61
Knowles 70, 73, 75, 96
Kribs 28, 89, 93

Laight 29
Laing 137
Lawrence 96
Lawson 51, 60, 84
Lee 69, 70
Leslie 4, 9, 73, 76, 77 81, 135
Lillie 93
Linfoot 73
Lister 70, 71, 73, 96
Little 58, 59 60, 61, 87, 94, 96
Livingstone 71
Lloyd 96

PAGE

Loghrin 8, 86
Lorea 32, 82, 85, 124
Lorne Mills 99
Lovells 99
Lunchy 96
Lushes 6, 36, 66, 68, 89, 92
Luxton 73
Lyell 94
Lynch 79

Mack 77
Mann 87, 179
Margaret 93
Marsh 87
Marshal 87, 90, 91, 94
Martin 62, 63, 94
Massey 68
Masters 93
Mathews 77
Maunsell 72
Meadows 96
Miller 32 77
Millican 75, 76, 77
Milne 87
Milroy 62
Mimosa 75
Mitchell 7, 8, 63 90, 128
Moir 87
Money for Sale 188
Montagu 1
Morris 79
Munro 58
Murphy 41, 78
Mutrie 4, 8, 9, 10, 62, 63

McAree 66, 117
McArthur 5, 75, 96
McCannell 5, 36
McCormick 89, 90, 92
McCracken 62
McCullough 23
McCutcheon 90
McDonald 4, 74, 75, 77
McDougall 36
McGladdery 94
McGlashen 92
McGregor 77
McIntosh 76, 77
McIvor 63

PAGE

McKay 87
McKenzie 69, 80
McKerlie 8
McKinnon 73
McLaren 76, 77
McLean 4, 8, 36, 63
McLeod 76, 124
McMillan 59, 60
McNab 4
McNabb 4, 8, 9, 33, 34, 35, 36, 53, 56, 58, 60 to 64, 89
McPherson 58
McQueen 8, 58
McTaggart 95
McVittie 4
McWilliams 62, 87, 96

Nelson 35
Nichol 77, 85
Nicholson 79
Nicklin 79
Noble 83
Nornish 6, 9, 15
North 99, 151

Oakes 9, 47, 68, 83, 91
Oliphant 7, 90, 155
Oliver 6, 62, 86
O'Meara 69
Orangemen 66, 192
Osler 70
Ostrander 29, 61
Oustic 133, 38
Overland 78

Palmer 64, 66, 67, 69
Parker 193
Parkhouse 129
Parkinson 7, 8, 9, 10, 31
Paumore 55, 67, 99
Patterson 61
Peal 35, 59, 60
Pearen 48, 58, 60, 61, 63, 96
Pearl 96
Peavoy 90
Pedley 93
Peters 9, 51, 86, 92, 156
Pettit 82
Petty 76, 135
Phin 28, 29
Pigott 70, 71
Pimlett 66
Plains 67
Plant 94
Plester 88
Porter 32
Powers 91
Presbyterian Church 62
Price 73
Pulker 73

Quirk 74

Ramsey 6, 58, 90, 173
Rawson 84, 92
Rea 8, 9, 10, 75, 76, 77, 78, 81, 86
Rebels 181
Reed 79
Rees 62
Reeve 57, 74
Reid 79
Richardson 73, 96
Robertson 26, 87, 94
Robinson 45, 46, 86, 93
Rockwood 96, 107, 113
Rockwood Community Club 109
Rockwood Fire Brigade 108
Rockwood Show 107
Rockwood Town Hall 108
Roman Catholic Church 74
Root 52, 61
Rowan 76, 77, 81
Royce 10, 35, 90, 96, 177
Rutherford 4, 8
Ryckman 7, 127

Salman 94
Sampson 94
Senderson 79, 83
Saunders 5, 16
Sawyer 71, 72, 73
Scarrow 82
Schmidt 94
Schneider 96
School Area 36
School Little Red 36
Scott 30, 58, 63, 75, 83, 86, 88, 90

PAGE

Scouts 130
Sharp 69, 83
Shaw 77 94
Shepperson 79
Sherwood 7
Shiloh 134
Shultis 34, 37
Sim 63
Simpson 62
Sinnott 74
Small 75, 79
Smith 56, 63 72 74, 79 80, 82, 83
Smythe 87
Sockett 66, 73
Soper 37 56, 122
Spence 76
Squires 41
Steele 70, 71
Stephen 70
Stephenson 87 94
Stewart 58 66, 68, 73, 121 38
Stinson 96
Stokes 79
Stone Church 81
Storey 8
Stout 82 98
Stover 73
Strahan 58
Strange 6, 41, 56, 65, 66, 67 96, 97
Stringfellow 68
Summerall 76
Sunley 8, 75
Sunter 161
Swallow 69
Swenston 5, 31 32, 36, 58, 62 63, 64

Talbot 8, 19
Tannery 190
Taylor 47, 59, 61, 84, 94
Thatcher 96
Thom 56
Thomas 10
Thring 89
Thurston 82
Thurtell 67
Tookey 75, 77, 79
Torrance 58, 75, 76, 87, 97
Tovell 6
Transportation 134

United Church 59
Unsworth 29, 93

Vicars 68

Waite 79
Walberg 36
Walker 75, 82
Waller 73, 177
Wanless 63, 64
Wansbrough 132, 176
Ward 60, 61, 62, 84
Ware 73
Warmington 94
Warner 54, 74
Waters 8
Watson 57, 59, 75
Watts 62
Weir 29
Wells 12
Wesleyan Church 53
Westmacott 71
Wetherald 26, 34, 36, 65, 117
Wharton 10
Wheeler 76, 77
Whitworth 79
Wilkie 87
Wilkinson 72
Williams 93
Williamson 63, 75, 77
Wilson 62, 63, 71, 77
Wishart 63, 64, 76
Woltz 83
Wood 4, 8, 9, 25, 53, 66, 68, 75, 86, 87, 88, 100
Worsfold 66

Young 63, 73

# Home and Thief in Ramosa

by Frank Ray Hc

Home and Thief in Ramosa ... by Frank Ray Hc

# Here and There in Eramosa

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE EARLY YEARS,
AND OF THE PEOPLE AND EVENTS CONTRIBUTING
TO THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
OF THE TOWNSHIP

BY

**Frank Day**

**ROCKWOOD**
**May, 1953**

**Price: $3.00 Postpaid**

From Frank Day or Geo. F. Day, Rockwood, Ont.

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# AN INTRODUCTION

**By Dr. Hugh Templin**

●

Canada is a young country, by European standards, but the older parts of Ontario were settled well over a century ago. No pioneers are alive to-day and the second generation has passed from the scene. No longer can history be gathered at first hand.

When that history is lost, it can never be recovered Great credit is due those enthusiastic historians, such as Frank Day, who are willing to search through old records and whose hobby is to gather all available informaton, piece it together, sort it over, and choose the essential portions.

The only way to preserve such early history, is to have it printed. Enough copies become available then so that there is no danger that the material will be lost Future historians will always be able to refer to what Mr. Day has written

He is admirably qualified for this work. He has a liking for the history of the township As Postmaster and Township Clerk, he knows the people, their farms, and their family history. He has gathered the material over many years, and has made sure it is accurate and complete. Eramosa Township will always be indebted to Frank Day for what he has done, and his work will be appreciated over a much wider area.

Hugh Templin

Fergus, Ont., April 18th, 1953.

*Sincere thanks are tendered to the many kind friends who have made possible this collection of Eramosa items. Some names will be inadvertantly omitted and for these omissions I tender apology, the assistance is deeply appreciated though the name may not be mentioned*

*First, the many valuable items submitted by Miss Ada Currie and her cordial co-operation, are an integral part of the work. Other valuable assistance was rendered by Dr. A. E. Byerly, Dr. Hugh Templin, Mrs. Gregory A. Franck, Mr. Reuben Butchart, Mrs. Robert L. Bingham, Mr. W. Melvin Grant, Rev. E. A. Brooks, Rev. Earle G. Dale, Rev. J. P. McLeod, Miss Mabel Burkholder, The Wellington County Atlas, Lovell's Directories, The Guelph Mercury, the works of Joshua Norrish, and the dozens of church and school secretaries and township clerks who have recorded current affairs for nearly 130 years.*

## CONTENTS


Foreword . . . . . 1

Historical Notes . . . . . 7

Municipal Government . . . . . 11

Historical Notes by Joshua Norrish . . . . 15

Mental and Political Attitude of Early Settlers . 19

Schools . . . . . 23

Early Statistics . . . . . 39

Early Deeds . . . . . 43

Church History . . . . . 47

Rockwood . . . . . 96

Everton . . . . . 120

Odds and Ends . . . . . 130

Family Histories . . . . . 138

Miscellaneous . . . . . 177


**Detailed Index on Page 195**

## ILLUSTRATIONS


The Cenotaph at Rockwood . . . . . 6

Mill Farm . . . . . 2

George Day and Frank Day . . . . . 2

100th Township Council . . . . . 14

Rockwood Academy . . . . . 26

School No. 2 . . . . . 26

Pupils of S S. No. 8 . . . . . 38

The Author and Family . . . . . 62

The Railway Viaduct . . . . . 110

John Rea . . . . . 174

Mrs John Ramsey . . . . . 174


## MAPS


Eramosa in 1850 . . . . . 42

Rockwood . . . . . 98

Everton . . . . . 126

Eden Mills . . . . . 126

Eramosa in 1906 . . . . . 138

Central Section of Upper Canada . . . . . 194

# FOREWORD

It is nearly 130 years since the first settlers came to the Township of Eramosa and no concerted effort has been made to gather the many valuable records into one focal point. A history of Eramosa should be written by a lifelong resident preferably someone with a good education and someone in constant contact with township church school and family affairs for a number of years.

I cannot meet the first two of these requirements having come to Eramosa as an English immigrant of 20 in 1907. I had attended school from the age of three to the age of ten when lack of health forced me to work for 10 years on my father's farm in Swavesey Cambs England, in order to acquire what was called a constitution in those days. Age 20 found me with three other young villagers— Harry Beaumont whose father had taught both my father and I in the village school Harry Wells the coal merchant's son and Lawson Hepher the tailor's son talking of our desires for adventure. Australia Canada South Africa or New Zealand we had in mind. From old tombstones we could learn that all our forefathers had resided in the village for generations and few records of actual experience in other countries were available so we determined to go and see.

When we decided to come to Canada our relatives warned us of the bears the cold that froze the cow's milk before it could reach the pail and that the only jobs available were those of digging postholes for The Grand Trunk Railway on a diet of pork and beans. We were specially warned to beware of wild American women and urgently requested to keep in contact with local village girls. Our relatives had previously objected to some girls that we had been seen with but now that we were going to Canada the same girls were held up as particularly desirable prospective wives.

Four young men aged from 20 to 24 emigrating together from a village about the size of Rockwood was quite an event we received a grand send-off at a village party held in the school being presented with various gifts. The committee in charge even arranged for a farewell telegram from our local M.P. Sir Edwin S. Montagu afterwards Secretary of State for India. The telegram was dated House of Commons London and read Best wishes for Swavesey in Canada.

Conditions in Canada appeared rather crude in some ways but there were advantages not obtainable in the homeland. It was natural that youth should appreciate the absence of class distinction and the popular idea that "Jack was as good as his master. Higher wages appeared attractive until we learned that living costs too were higher. We found living conditions in the rural areas much below those in England. It appeared that the farmer his sons and the hired man worked from daylight to dark in Canada while in England they worked an orderly nine hour day except for some overtime in harvest.

Railway crossings road conditions, recreational facilities, clothes, boots and many manufactured articles were well below the standards we had left. The English carpenter bricklayer cowman shepherd horsekeeper or butcher

was usually a specialist performing the one task for a lifetime. The vastness and infancy of Canada demanded that every man in the rural areas take a hand at all these tasks consequently his chances of proficiency were lessened. Where an English carpenter would use a mortise and tenon his son in Canada would use a four or five inch spike where the father dug three feet for a foundation his son dug 18 inches. Much of this could be expected in a new country and something of its very newness was appealing. The absence of many restrictions. Lights on bicycles and vehicles poaching and hunting laws trespass and other irritating strictures was very welcome to young freedom loving Englishmen. After some months in Canada some of us wrote home to say that we had not yet seen a uniformed policeman. We could see a squeeze coming in England between the aristocrats and the socialists and as events have proved we rightly judged that Canada would stand for middle of the road orderly development.

June 8th 1907 found me walking up the trail from Arkell to Crewsons Corners and up the township of Erin and Eramosa looking for a job. Those were the days when the Toronto Globe carried Help Wanted ads with the addition No Englishmen need apply. We were not altogether surprised at this attitude for we well knew that many of our countrymen had been sentenced to transportation to Australia for misbehaviour. We had also noticed that while Canada was conducting such a strenuous campaign in Britain for immigrants many of the magistrates were granting suspended sentences on condition that the offender would emigrate to Canada.

We had not committed any serious crimes. Beaumont and Wells were from Anglican and Tory families. Hepher and I were from Baptist and Liberal families. All of us belonged to the Cricket Club all of us belonged to choirs choral societies or musical societies. I was singing in the Temperance Society the choir and two Choral Societies one in the village each week during the winter and one at St. Ives three miles away where Cromwell made his home and where had been his statue unveiled in the Market Place. Our little village of 900 was evenly divided politically the Parish Council consisted of nine members. One year nine Liberals ran against nine Tories and the Liberals won including my father my grandfather and an uncle. The next year eight Tories were elected and my father was the only Liberal. They took their politics raw. When quite young I was given the job of hauling voters to and from the poll on election day and we remember the shame with which I confessed to my father at night that I had unwittingly driven one man home that I later found out to be a Tory. At one Tory meeting I remember entering with a group of young Liberals. A prominent Tory got the wind up and came to me with the request that we would not upset the meeting.

I had been guilty of poaching riding a bicycle without lights and similar misbehaviour but never caught it seemed to be fun to match wits with the cops and gamekeepers. Sometimes while hunting it was necessary to pass from some of my fathers land through a game preserve to reach land belonging to an uncle or some other friend. We would usually crawl along a ditch or beside a hedge to do this. My parents allowed me a gun but not a hunting dog so had to make arrangements with a man who had one and who understood stalking a hare or a brace of partridge he was supposed

Mr Frank Day, formerly of the 122nd Battalion (1914 19 9, and clerk treasurer and collector for the Township of Eramosa since 1932, has resigned.

His son, Geo F Day, recently discharged after four years service with the Canadian Postal Corps, has been appointed to the vacant positions

THE MUNICIPAL WORLD, September, 1945

Boyhood home of the author Mill Farm Swavesey Cambs England

to be leading me into trouble but he rather kept me out of it by warning when danger approached that I would not have noticed

My great grandfather was a butcher who hauled carcasses of meat to be sold at Cambridge Market each Saturday. Cambridge was 10 miles away. In the days when banks were few and paper money practically unknown he was travelling the old Roman road home one night when near Galt three miles from Cambridge he was robbed beaten about the head and left for dead in the road. The horse came home with the man in the cart but the frosty air had congealed the blood that the man survived. The latter created suspicion by spending too freely and he was later identified and sentenced to life imprisonment. On a later occasion on a dark night about the same place a rookie highwayman held the bridle of my great grandfather's cart and promptly had his pigeon breasted with a meat cleaver he had - readiness for such attempts. The owner of the pigeon knocked the butt of the cleaver was never identified. Four generations of my father's people had been butchers and four of my mother had been millers. Cast to a boy farming on my own I enjoyed life on a 400 acre farm with frequent trips to St. Ives and Cambridge and an occasional trip to the real life London or Manchester.

After coming to Canada I secured a job with John Bellingham near Creewson's Corners at $228.00 for a year. He was an English speaker with an Anglican wife and when I mentioned about a Baptist Chapel they told me that there was one at Acton but it was called a church in this country. They told me too that there was a Methodist Church at Creewson Corners with service every other Sunday morning where they sometimes attended. Real contact with Eramosa began on that first Sunday morning when sitting near the back of the church I noticed a girl of seventeen playing the organ. She gave me one look over the top of the organ and all my grandmother's warnings about wild American women were forgotten. A kindly neighbour promptly informed the choir leader that the new greenhorn Englishman was singing bass and an invitation to choir practice was accepted. A month later we were engaged after a Sunday evening drive to Acton Presbyterian Church with a rented horse and buggy.

We had to travel four miles over narrow crooked country roads for 12 years before the new No. 7 Highway reduced the distance from Creewson's Corners to Acton to two miles. I forgot to tie the horse in the Presbyterian shed and was roundly scrubbed for years by local witnesses. The parents of my girl friend were criticized later for allowing her to accompany me on a trip to Niagara Falls by the old Stratford Beaver excursion leaving Rockwood by Grand Trunk at five Saturday morning, steamer from Toronto to Lewiston and The Gorge Route to the Falls, returning to Rockwood at one Sunday morning.

The Spring of 1909 saw us married and on our own farm in Eramosa and the assessment roll of 1909 shows us as the youngest couple assessed as owners for that year. Over 40 years in the township with many and varied duties has provided the opportunity for gathering the items herein presented.

My first municipal duty was that of Pathmaster under The Statute Labour Act which meant the supervision of about two miles of road. A list of ratepayers on the beat was sent to the pathmaster by the Clerk stating

how many days work should be performed by each Eight hours was considered a day and a man with team and wagon was counted as three days Gravel was usually hauled in June and despite the cheer and stein usually connected with charges of maladministration of The Statute Labour Act there was very little difficulty in securing a good days work at roadmaking from the neighbours on that beat

Shortly after returning from overseas in 1919 I was elected Trustee for SS No 8 afterwards Secretary Treasurer then Chairman Some confusion developed about the right of a trustee to be elected Councillor and the Clerk insisted that I resign as trustee on being elected councillor in 1926 Later it was established that being a trustee was not a disqualification as councillor In 1928 along with Adam Wood and Ed Atchison I was defeated in an election for Reeve by an old friend and neighbour Alex McNabb My successor as councillor for the Rockwood district was Jim McLean afterwards Warden of the County who now resides in Ferguson

Col John Mutrie ex Warden and ex MPP Postmaster at Rockwood died in June 1928 and I was appointed Postmaster and Bell Telephone local manager in October The next year the Rockwood Public School Trustees petitioned the government for my appointment as JP for the County the trustees were all Liberals and the government was Conservative but the petition was granted In 1932 the Eramosa Council appointed me as Clerk and Treasurer and Collector in 1934 My son George demobilized in 1945 succeeded me as Clerk Treasurer Collector and Postmaster

In 1944 there was considerable agitation in the township toward dissolving the 11 School Sections and setting up a Township School Area In order to be effective in 1945 a bylaw to this effect would have to be passed by the Council on or before June 30th 1944 After several meetings with Council Trustees Ratepayers and Inspectors it was thought that such a bylaw would be passed and a special meeting of Council was held in the evening of June 30th to decide the matter for that year A motion to erect the new school area was introduced by Councillor Barham and Councillor Rutherford had consistently opposed the move and in this occasion he was supported by Councillor Jones This made a 2 2 division for the Reeve to settle Reeve D D Gray refused to accept the responsibility for forming the Eramosa Township School Area and declared the motion lost The late Dr G G McNab was Inspector at the time he had worked hard in support of the area and was surprised and disappointed at the result particularly at the action of the Reeve in using his prerogative of declaring the motion lost Of course the Reeve was acting strictly according to recognized municipal procedure He could vote with two resolutions and declare Eramosa Township to be a School Area or he could decline to vote and declare the motion lost on a 2 2 vote

Dr McNab's remark when I advised him of the result of the vote late in the evening is not readily forgotten Said he As far as I am concerned Eramosa can go down to ot nion with its benighted Reeve Despite this temporary setback it was generally agreed that a Township School Area should be formed and with no change in Council the February meeting passed the bylaw almost without debate This made the Area effective for 1946 by which time Mr W R McVittie had succeeded Dr McNab on retirement

The Trustees elected for 946 are still in office for 1950 Hugh Adsett Wm H Hindley E H McConnell Thos W Saunders and Gordon F Swanston E H McConnell was Chairman for 1946 7 8 Wm H Hindley for 1949 and Gordon F Swanston for 1950 I was secretary-treasurer for the new organization and still hold that office In 1946 the surviving trustees of the Public School Area at Rockwood appointed me to fill out the unexpired term of the late Cr F McArthur as Trustee I again served in 947 as a result of a poll for that year

Rockwood Continuation School closed in September of 946 and 947 saw the formation of the Suburban Guelph High School District to operate in 948 composed of the Townships of Eramosa Guelph and Puslinch The new Board consisted of five members one appointed by each of the three Councils of Eramosa Guelph and Puslinch one appointed by the County Council and one by the Eramosa Township School Board that township having the highest average pupil hour attendance for the preceding year in each of the three Townships Both the Eramosa Council and School Board requested me to become a member of the new Board and since I was an employee of the School Board accepted the appointment of Council becoming Chairman of the Suburban Board at its first meeting was forced to resign from this Board in July 948 on being re-engaged as Clerk of Eramosa My successor from Eramosa was Mr Fred Duttield and as Chairman Ex-Reeve J D Creighton of Guelph Township

Some of the material presented in this book is copied from existing records some has been written in earlier years by people interested in preserving records of current events some has been gathered from stories told me by residents and some is from incidents that have come to notice during my 43 years in Eramosa Perhaps the task of collecting taxes brings one closest to the people for there you hear of prosperity and adversity of good luck and hard luck There is the taxpayer who year after year sends his taxes with no excuse no enquiry or charge or short on the penalty On the other hand there is the taxpayer who sends too much one who duly requests me to deduct the discount Some year after year send a signed blank cheque for the collector to fill in and one old gentleman frequently clipped a card of bills on the desk saying There take your taxes out of that The Postmastership too gives one a chance to get to the people A card may come daily for mail for two or three years without much more than Good Morning but sooner or later there comes a desire to talk and so the pen is drawn Of some one's family history Writing applications for Old Age Pensions drawing deeds wills and mortgages attending meetings under The Farmers Creditor's Arrangement Act in Guelph Kitchener Cayuga and Shelburne revealed much of family history and business that must ever be strictly confidential but might possibly give knowledge and understanding to some record or comment These are my meagre qualifications for an attempt to gather or compile records pertaining to the history of Eramosa

There will be errors and discrepancies for there are discrepancies in the older records For instance Where did John Harris the first settler in Rockwood build his shanty? When did James Black come to Eramosa? Wellington County Atlas of 1906 says that John Harris came in 821 and built a shanty near where the Presbyterian Manse stands That would be near the

South corner of Lot 4 Con 5 Rev E A Brooks says that John Harris first shanty was just West of St John's Church which would be near the North corner of Lot 5 Con 4 later named Lot 1 Block B by Henry Strange These sites are almost three quarters of a mile apart Rev H D Hinkwater the resident Anglican minister who lived in a frame house on the site of John Harris' first shanty mentions building a stable on the church lot so it appears that Rev E A Brooks is correct for the Rector would hardly build a stable three quarters of a mile from his home Both records may be correct in a way, for it is recorded that John Harris was burned out and left Eramosa for Etobicoke returning in 1829 He may have built a shanty near St John's in 1821 and another near the old Presbyterian Manse in 1829

Joshua Norrish the Nassagaweya historian confirms the fact that John Harris was the nearest settler to John Ramsey on Lot 1 Con 3 He tells the story of the cat as follows When Mrs Ramsey's first child was born she was in Nelson and stopped some few weeks later When she came home they had a cat and as soon as the infant started to cry the cat ran from the house The late John Harris was then living in a shanty about where Rockwood now stands and during the night he heard a cat on the roof crying for admittance and he got up and let it in It was Ramsey's cat for there was no other cat in the neighbourhood at that time and the cat never left Mr Harris Mr Norrish wrote this in 1889 Wellington County Atlas says that there were no settlers between Ramsey and Black in 1829 it may be that John Harris was away at Etobicoke at the time or possibly it was considered that Rockwood was not in a direct line from Ramsey's to Black's

Joshua Norrish also tells of James Black coming to Nassagaweya in 1823 and drawing a lot there but did not settle there Dr A E Byerly the well known authority on early history says that James Black conducted services at Barrie Hill in 1826 or thereabouts Wellington County Atlas says he settled in Eramosa in 1829 Joseph Ash in Old Everton says 1825 Reuben Butchart in Old Everton says Nassagaweya in 1825 married Lois Humphreys in 1828 and settled in Eramosa in 1830 Rev Amos Tovell who married Elder James Black's granddaughter says in Old Everton that James Black came to Wellington County in 1825 It does appear possible that while John Harris he went away for awhile and was preaching in the district before really settling here

Rev E A Brooks in his splendid history of St John's states that the Lushes were lost to the Church of England when the Church of Ascension was closed Records show that two Lushes were members of Speedside Congregational in 1845 and four were baptized into Eramosa West Disciple Church from 1855 to 1859 It seems probable that when the Church of the Ascension was built in 1861 the Lushes attended there as it was less than a mile from their home Then when it closed in 1883 they would go to Barrie Hill two miles in the other direction They may have been Anglican but it appears that they just belonged for the 20 years or so that the Ascension Church was open, and close to the farm

# HISTORICAL NOTES

The Township of Eramosa is situated about 50 miles from Toronto and 40 from Hamilton. It is twelve miles long and six and one-eighth miles in width. The Southwest boundary is part of a line running directly Northwest from Burlington to Arthur. This line passes close to Fergus and if continued beyond Arthur it would reach Lake Huron about Port Elgin. It was established but probably not surveyed in 1784 when the Mississagas surrendered land Southwest of the line to the government. The whole territory had been captured from the French in 1759 and was made part of Quebec in 1774. In 1787 it was called The District of Hesse and in 1790 Upper Canada. In 1792 the part that is now Eramosa became part of the West Riding of the County of York, Western District. In 1798 it was still in the County of York but in the Home District. In 1816 it was included in the County of Halton, District of Gore and was part of the Clergy or government reserves.

The year 1818 saw a large block of land including what is now Eramosa, surrendered to the government and part of Nassagaweya was surveyed by Sherwood. Samuel Ryerson surveyed the rest of Nassagaweya and all of Eramosa in 1819. Apparently this would be the first use of the name for this would be the first time that boundaries other than the Southwest side could be described. The township was not surveyed on the square, the boundaries and lines running Northwest are North 45 degrees West or exactly Northwest but the other boundaries, lot lines and crossroads are not exactly Northeast. They are North 38 degrees East so that no 200 acre lot has a square corner. The surveyors had started the N 38 degree E line in Nelson probably because the lake shore line ran in approximately that direction. It is continued through New Nassagaweya and Eramosa Townships to the Southeastern boundary of Garafraxa.

The District of Wellington was set apart as a separate district in April 1838 and contained originally the whole of the present Counties of Wellington, Waterloo and Grey and a portion of the County of Dufferin. The first meeting of the District Council of the District of Wellington was held in the Court House, Guelph, on February 8th, 1842 pursuant to "The Act to provide for the better internal government of that part of the Province which formerly constituted The Province of Upper Canada by the establishment of local and municipal authorities therein". Alexander Dingwall Fordyce Esq. Warden was in the chair. The Warden read a commission issued by the Governor General appointing him Warden of the District of Wellington. Thomas Saunders was then appointed Clerk and sworn under the provisions of the said Act. Representatives were present from the Townships of Eramosa, Erin, Garafraxa, Guelph, Nichol, Waterloo, Wilmot and Woolwich, nine Councillors. Thomas Armstrong was the first representative from Eramosa. William Armstrong was Councillor for four years, 1843 to 1846. Donald Black for 1847 and 1848. Donald Black and Joseph Parkinson for 1849.

The first Council for the Township of Eramosa met in Worsfold's Tavern on January 21st, 1850. They were Thomas Armstrong, Adam L. Argo, James Mitchell, James Parkinson and Donald Black. Thomas Armstrong was elected Reeve, William Oliphant Clerk and Joseph Parkinson J.P. Treasurer.

In 1851 Thomas Armstrong was again Reeve. The name of **Wellington District Council** had been changed for 1850 and 1851 to the **Waterloo County Council,** comprising the municipalities of Arthur Bentinck, Derby, Erin Eramosa Egremont Guelph Town Guelph Township, Garafraxa Amaranth and Melancthon Glenelg Holland Maryborough Nichol, Normanby, Peel Pusnich Sydenham Sullivan Waterloo Wellesley Wilmot and Woolwich In 1852 it was **Council of the United Counties of Wellington, Waterloo and Grey.** Lazarus Parkinson was Reeve of Eramosa Pilkington Dumfries, Galt Preston Artemesia Collingwood and Euphrasia had been added. 1853—**United Counties of Wellington and Grey.** Lazarus Parkinson Reeve of Eramosa

In 1854 it became **Wellington County Council,** and included Amaranth, Arthur Eramosa Erin Guelph Guelph Town Garafraxa Maryborough, Nichol Peel Pilkington and Pusunch Donald Black was Reeve of Eramosa. 1855—James Mitchell Reeve 1856- Lazarus Parkinson 1857—Donald Black Luther and Minto had been added to the County Council 1858—Donald Black and Lazarus Parkinson Elora and Fergus added 1859 60-61—Donald Black and Lazarus Parkinson 1862 3 Robert Royce Reeve James Loghrin, Deputy 1864—James Loghrin Reeve Robert Royce Deputy Orangeville added to County Council 1865 6 James Loghrin Reeve Robert Royce, Deputy Mount Forest added 1867 8 9—John Duffield Reeve John Rea, Deputy Garafraxa divided into East and West 1870 1—John Rea Alex McQueen 1872—John Rea John McKerlie Arthur Village added 1873 4—John Rea Wm Duffield Harriston added 1875 6—John Rea Michael Cummings Clifford Drayton and Palmerston added 1877 8 John Rea Geo. Duffield 1879 John Rea Henry Carter 1880—John Rea Thos Waters 1881—Thos Waters John Mutrie Amaranth Garafraxa East and Orangeville dropped and Erin Village added Luther divided East and West 1882 3 Thomas Waters John Mutrie Luther East dropped

1884 5 6—John Mutrie James W Benham 1887 8 9 890 1 2 John Mutrie Joseph Fletcher 1893 Jos Fletcher Robt Hamilton 1894-5 6 — John Rea D Talbot 897 8 9 1900—Daniel Talbot Reeve 901 2—Noah Sunley 1903 4 John Dickeson 1905 6 7 8 9 John Grieve 910-11 — James Black 1912 3 4—Chas McNabb 914 15- James Black 1915 — Wm Parkinson Adam Wood 916 to 1920- Adam Wood 92 to 1925— Wm A Dickieson 1926 to 1929—Arch McNabb 1930 31—Jos R Rutherford 932—Adam Wood Sims McLean 933 to 935—Sims McLean 1936 to 938 David H Storey 939 to 1951—David D Gray 1952- Ernest H Benham

**Eramosa Wardens of the County of Wellington:** 876 7 8 John Rea 890 1—John Mutrie 924—Wm A Dickieson 1935—Sims McLean 1947 D D Gray In the 10 years 1897 to 1906 the Reeve was not a member of County Council so that from 1897 to 1900 while Daniel Talbot was Reeve John Rea was County Councillor and in 1901 2 while Noah Sunley was Reeve Daniel Talbot was County Councillor John Rea was again County Councillor for four years 1903 6 during the two years John Dickieson was Reeve and two years of John Grieve's term John Rea was therefore County Councillor for 25 years—three years as Deputy Reeve 14 years as Reeve and eight years while others were Reeve

Eramosa age - became entitled to a Deputy Reeve in 1945 Roy I Leslie was elected for 945 and 1946 Ernest H Benham was elected for 947 to 195 Col John Mut e was Deputy for three years and Reeve for n ne years a total of 12 years at County Coun D D Gray s n 950 completing 12 years at County Council equalling the record of Col Mutrie and beating all records as Reeve for 2 consecutive years He completed 1 years in 1951

Guelph Township has provided a Warden for 6 years three of these were at the time the Town of Guelph was included in the township Guelph Town also provided the Warden for two years For years the Warden has come from N chol Township and t e eight years from Eramosa All the re maining municipalities have supplied a Warden for from one to six years except Ferguson which has always had another kind of representation at County Council perhaps more effective in the long run than if it had had a share of Wardens The outstanding record of the Beattie clan was that they have held the clerkship for about 80 years John was Clerk in 87 his son James in 898 followed by his grandson John F who retired in 1950 John F is also Treasurer saw him a few weeks ago in Richmond Bank on his way to Toronto Apparently he had left Fergus too early to get into the bank and required a bit more petty cash He would not need identification in Wellington County I was in a bank a customer of Acton recently requiring $100 in a hurry but no cash - the bank knew me and had no Acton bank account Fortunately Dr Frank Oakes V S now Mayor of Acton formerly of Eramosa walked in and identification was quickly established

Some names of municipal interest in Eramosa call for more than passing ment on Besides these grand old Eramosa pioneers to whom we owe Elder James Black who was Commissioner for many years before Councils were organized James Peters the early Clerk John Rae father of the Reeve Col John Mutrie M P P and David D Gray the present and the Reeve None of these appear to have been particularly outstanding farmers Joshua Norrish said of James Black He was considered the strongest man ever seen in this township physically but outstanding by great strength he was not a successful bush whacker A grand nephew aged over 80 said recently Grandpa Black was never known to do a full days work on the farm James Peters did an essential job as Clerk and in connection with the establishment of Speedside Church Perhaps his greatest effort was in connection with the rebellion in 1837

John Rae was considered to be a walking encyclopedia on municipal affairs His son Johnnie was councillor for six years but did not get the Reeveship In 1914 when Chas M Nattress died Johnnie was made Acting Reeve by his fellow councillors and again in 1915 when James Black Jr died but in March 915 when Wm Patterson died Johnnie resigned from Council to run for Reeve and was defeated by Adam Wood Though never again in Council Johnnie retained an interest and spent many an hour discussing municipal affairs in the office He was in my office until nearly dark on the stormy wintry day he died He had been bothered a bit financially his car was not A 1 but it may have been a heart attack or gas fumes in a snow bound car but Johnnie was found dead in his car not far from home

Wellington County Atlas states that John Rae Sr who married Maria Peters was a Liberal but Johnnie told me that when his grandfather David

(who married Jennie Black) came in 1838 he was a Tory and that John Rea had been advised in Guelph that Eramosa after the rebellion was not a healthy place for a Tory Apparently John had some choice of a lot in Eramosa so he went as far North as he could to Lot 1 Con 7 A map of Eramosa dated 1850 shows him settled miles from a neighbour Three quarters of the North quarter of the township is assessed a non-resident for that year Johnnie told me a story too that is partly verified by the township minutes concerning his father's popularity as Reeve It is strange at first sight that a man in the extreme North corner of the township in the most thinly populated part could hold the record of 2 years in County Council John was in his second year as Reeve in 1871 and the township was divided into eight School Sections of equal size Rockwood a growing village clamoured for a school and crowded meetings were held at Centre Inn as Council attempted to decide the issue Sections 1 2 7 and 8 protested against loss of assessment Two councillors voted for a new School Section for the Rockwood district and two voted against John Rea gave his casting vote for Rockwood and while not improving his own support in the North corner he secured Rockwood support and from that time he was unbeatable

Col John Mutrie with a great municipal record was elected Liberal member for the Provincial House in 1894 and in 1898 He was always prominent in military affairs He was chief recruiting officer in Guelph when I rode with him in a cutter to the Guelph Armoury to join up in World War I While Postmaster at Rockwood and Township Treasurer Col Mutrie was the mainstay of the Rockwood Ba Club He was a tower of strength to the Presbyterians at the time of union when a large section withdrew to form the present congregation

David Donald Grey the present Reeve has not been surpassed in his ability to get things done he too is a supporter of the continuing Presbyterian Church During World War II sleighs and cutters were going out of fashion and farmers begged for open Winter roads D D as he is familiarly known left no stone unturned to see that wartime farm efficiency in Eramosa was unhampered by snow or other hindrance No item of municipal business or other public welfare matter was too small or too much trouble for his attention His ability and his willingness to serve soon placed him in an unassailable position as a popular Reeve His beautiful home on 200 acres just outside Rockwood was built by his father from there he has directed a large turnip export business but one would not likely find a horse cow or pig on the premises. Successful business and municipal affairs do not appear to tie in with practical farming (D D later sold his farm to A K Thomas & Son and built a beautiful home at Rockwood Station)

— The following lands and names are taken from a Map of the Township of Eramosa dated 1850 families of the same names reside on or own these lots in 1950.

Concession 1—Lot 2 Robert Wharton Lot 12 J Parkinson Lot 16, Con Donahue

Concession 2:—Lot 14 J Loree Lot 27 R Robinson

Concession 3:—Lot 4 W Hamilton Lot 6 Mrs Bernard Lot 10 James Benham Lot 13 H Duffield Lot 21 Wm Lush and Geo. Nelson Lot 29 Andrew Freure

Concession 4:—None.

Concession 5—Lot 2 Robert Farries. Lots 3 and 4 John Harris. Lot 7 Alex. Moore. Lot 17, Thos. Forsyth Lot 25, Jonathan Oakes

Concession 6:—Lot 4 Wm McNabb and David Shultis. Lot 25. Thos. Cox.

Concession 7:—Lot 7, James Black. Lot 4, H. and R. Jackson.

## MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS FROM 1836 TO 1953

From 836 to 1849 the duties and operations of the Board of Commissioners included most of those now covered [1952] by the township council, police village trustees, school boards and magistrate's courts.

1836 to 1840—Chairman David Knibbs. Peter Miller, Joseph Wood, William Everts, John Loree.

1841 to 1849—Chairman, John Harris. George Armstrong. James Black, John Butchart. James Loghrin.

County Councillor from Eramosa.

1842—Thomas Armstrong.

1843 to 1846—William Armstrong.

1847 to 1849—Donald Black.

Township Councils.

1850—Reeve, Thomas Armstrong. Councillors Adam Argo, James Mitchell, James Parkinson Donald Black.

1851—Reeve, Thomas Armstrong Councillors. John Duffield, Robert Royce, James Parkinson. Donald Black.

1852—Reeve, Lazarus Parkinson, Councillors James Mitchell, Henry Duffield James Loghrin Samuel Balfs.

1853—Reeve Lazarus Parkinson, Councillors. James Mitchell Robert Royce, James Loghrin. Donald Black.

1854—Reeve. Donald Black. Councillors James Mitchell Robert Royce, John Duffield John McKerlie.

1855—Reeve James Mitchell. Councillors Lazarus Parkinson, Robert Royce. John Duffield John McKerlie.

1856—Reeve, Lazarus Parkinson, Councillors Jonathan Tovell Robert Royce, William Horne John McKerlie.

1857—Reeve, Donald Black, Councillors Jonathan Tovell, Robert Royce. John Duffield. John McKerlie.

1858—Reeve Donald Black Dep.-Reeve, Lazarus Parkinson. Councillors Robert Royce John Duffield, John McKerlie.

1859—Reeve, Donald Black. Dep.-Reeve, Lazarus Parkinson. Councillors, Robert Royce, John Duffield. John McKerlie.

1860—Reeve, Donald Black, Dep.-Reeve. Lazarus Parkinson. Councillors, Robert Royce, John Duffield John McKerlie.

1861—Reeve, Donald Black Dep.-Reeve Lazarus Parkinson, Councillors. Robert Royce. John Duffield, Henry Strange.

1862—Reeve Robert Royce, Dep.-Reeve, James Loghrin. Councillors James Wilson, John Duffield, Henry Strange

1863—Reeve, Robert Royce. Dep.-Reeve, James Loghrin Councillors, John Rea John Duffield, George Nelson.

1864—Reeve. James Loghrin Dep.-Reeve, Robert Royce. Councillors John Rea, John Duffield, George Nelson.

1865—Reeve. James Loghrin. Dep.-Reeve Robert Royce. Councillors: John Rea, John Duffield, William Forrish.

1866—Reeve, James Loghrin, Dep.-Reeve, Robert Royce. Councillors. John Rea, John Duffield, William Farrish.

1867.—Reeve John Duffield, Dep Reeve, John Rea. Councillors John Dickieson, John McKerlie, William Fernish.

1868—Reeve John Duffield Dep Reeve, John Rea Councillors John Dickieson John McKerlie William Fernish.

1869—Reeve John Duffield Dep Reeve John Rea Councillors Alex McQueen, John McKerlie, William Fernish.

1870—Reeve John Rea Dep Reeve, Alex McQueen Councillors John Dickieson John McKerlie William Fernish.

871 —Reeve, John Rea Dep. Reeve, Alex, McQueen, Councillors John Dickieson, John McKerlie William Duffield

1872 Reeve John Rea Dep Reeve, John McKerlie Councillors John Dickieson John R Harris William Duffield.

1873—Reeve, John Rea. Dep Reeve, William Duffield Councillors David Rea John R. Harris, Henry Dunbar

1874—Reeve, John Rea Dep Reeve William Duffield Councillors David Rea John R Harris Henry Dunbar

1875—Reeve John Rea Dep Reeve Michael Cummins Councillors Henry Carter James Hortop, Thomas Waters.

1876—Reeve John Rea Dep Reeve, Michael Cummins, Councillors Henry Carter James Hortop, George Duffield.

1877—Reeve, John Rea Dep. Reeve, George Duffield Councillors, Thomas Waters, Henry Carter James Hortop.

1878—Reeve John Rea Dep Reeve George Duffield Councillors Thomas Waters, John Mutrie, James Hortop.

1879—Reeve John Rea Dep. Reeve Henry Carter Councillors Thomas Waters Michael Cummins, John Mutrie.

1880—Reeve John Rea Dep. Reeve Thomas Waters, Councillors John Mutrie James W Benham, Michael Cummins.

1881—Reeve, Thomas Waters Dep Reeve, John Mutrie Councillors Matthias McCann James W Benham John S. Loree

1882—Reeve, Thomas Waters, Dep Reeve, John Mutrie Councillors Matthias McCann, James W Benham John S. Loree.

1883—Reeve Thomas Waters Dep Reeve John Mutrie Councillors Matthias McCann, James W Benham John S Loree

1884—Reeve John Mutrie, Dep Reeve James W Benham Councillors David Rae Joseph Fletcher, John S. Loree.

1885—Reeve, John Mutrie Dep. Reeve James W Benham Councillors David Rae, Joseph Fletcher James McQueen

1886—Reeve, John Mutrie Dep Reeve James W Benham Councillors David Rae Joseph Fletcher James McQueen

1887—Reeve, John Mutrie, Dep. Reeve, Joseph Fletcher Councillors John Black Robert Hamilton, James McQueen.

1888—Reeve, John Mutrie Dep. Reeve, Joseph Fletcher, Councillors John Black, Robert Hamilton Matthew Loree.

1889—Reeve John Mutrie, Dep. Reeve, Joseph Fletcher Councillors John Black, Robert Hamilton W M Armstrong

1890—Reeve, John Mutrie, Dep. Reeve, Joseph Fletcher Councillors Matthew Loree, Robert Hamilton W M Armstrong.

1891 —Reeve John Mutrie Dep. Reeve, Joseph Fletcher Councillors Matthew Loree, Robert Hamilton, Dan Talbot.

1892—Reeve John Mutrie, Dep Reeve, Joseph Fletcher Councillors: Matthew Loree, Robert Hamilton, Dan Talbot.

1893—Reeve, Joseph Fletcher Dep. Reeve Robert Hamilton Councillors, Matthew Loree, George Armstrong Robert Scott

1894—Reeve, John Rea, Dep. Reeve, Dan, Talbot, Councillors James Sharp, William Argo, Robert Scott

1895—Reeve, John Rea Dep. Reeve, Dan Talbot Councillors, James Sharp William Argo, Douglas McGregor

1896—Reeve John Rea, Dep.-Reeve, Dan. Talbot Councillors Charles McNabb, William Argo, Douglas McGregor

1897—Reeve Daniel Talbot Councillors Charles McNabb, William Argo, John Dickieson Douglas McGregor

For the ten years 897 to 1906, the reeve was not a member of County Council. County Councillors for the ten years were — 897, 898, 1899, 900, 903 1904, 1905 and 1906, John Rea 1901 and 902, Daniel Talbot

1898—Reeve, Daniel Talbot Councillors Charles McNabb, William Argo, John Dickieson, Noah Sunley

1899—Reeve, Daniel Talbot Councillors Charles McNabb, Robert Scott, John Dickieson Noah Sunley

900—Reeve, Daniel Talbot Councillors Robert Hamilton, Robert Scott John Dickieson, Noah Sunley

90 Reeve, Noah Sunley, Councillors, Robert Hamilton, Thomas Cox, John Dickieson John Grieve

1902—Reeve, Noah Sunley Councillors Robert Hamilton Thomas Cox, John Dickieson, John Grieve

1903—Reeve, John Dickieson, Councillors George Armstrong Robert Talbot, Len McDougall, John Grieve.

904—Reeve John Dickieson Councillors, Robert Hamilton, Robert Talbot Len, McDougall John Grieve.

1905 Reeve, John Grieve, Councillors James Black Alfred Farrow Len McDougall, Wm Parkinson.

1906—Reeve, John Grieve, Councillors James Black, Robert Hamilton, Len McDougall, Wm Parkinson

1907 Reeve John Grieve, Councillors: James Black, Charles McNabb, Len. McDougall Wm. Parkinson,

908—Reeve, John Grieve, Councillors James Black, Charles McNabb, Adam Wood, Wm. Parkinson.

1909—Reeve: John Grieve Councillors: James Black Charles McNabb, Adam Wood Wm. Parkinson.

1910—Reeve, James Black Councillors William Barber, Charles McNabb, Adam Wood, John Rea,

1911—Reeve James Black, Councillors, William Barber, Charles McNabb, Adam Wood John Rea.

1912—Reeve Charles McNabb, Councillors Charles Benham, Baxter Nelson, Adam Wood, John Rea.

1913—Reeve, Charles McNabb Councillors Charles Benham, Baxter Nelson, Adam Wood, John Rea

1914—Reeve, Charles McNabb (died in office) James Black, Councillors Charles Benham, Baxter Nelson, Alfred Farrow John Rea.

1915—Reeve, James Black Wm Parkinson, (both died in office), Adam Wood Councillors Charles Benham Baxter Nelson, Alfred Farrow John Rea, H E. Alton John Rea resigned to run for the Reeveship,

1916—Reeve, Adam Wood Councillors, Charles Benham, Baxter Nelson Alfred Farrow Hiram E. Alton.

1917—Reeve, Adam Wood Councillors, Charles Benham, Baxter Nelson Alfred Farrow, Hiram E. Alton,

918—Reeve Adam Wood, Councillors Charles Benham Baxter Nelson, Alfred Farrow, Hiram E. Alton,

1919—Reeve, Adam Wood Councillors, Charles Benham, Baxter Nelson, Alfred Farrow, Hiram E. Alton,

1920—Reeve, Adam Wood Councillors: Wm. A. Dickieson, Baxter Nelson, Henry Sunley, George Foote,

921 -Reeve, Wm. A. Dickieson. Councillors Arch. McNabb, William Barber, Henry Sunley, George Foote.

1922—Reeve, Wm A Dick eson. Councillors Arch. McNabb. William Barber, Ernest Doughty, George Foote.

1923—Reeve, Wm A. Dickieson Councillors Arch McNabb, William Barber, William Swanston George Foote

1924—Reeve, Wm A. Dick eson. Council ors Arch, McNabb, William Barber, William Swanston Ernest Doughty

1925—Reeve, Wm A. Dick eson Councillors Arch McNabb, Jos. R. Rutherford, William Swanston, Hiram E. Alton.

1926—Reeve Arch McNabb. Councillors Jos R Rutherford Frank Day William Swanston Hiram E. Alton.

1927—Reeve, Arch McNabb. Councillors Jos. R. Rutherford, Frank Day William Swanston, Hiram E. Alton.

1928—Reeve, Arch McNabb. Councillors Jos. R. Rutherford, Sims McLean Joseph Stovel, Nathan McKersie.

929 -Reeve Arch McNabb. Councillors Sims McLean Albert Cox Joseph Stovel, Nathan McKersie

1930—Reeve, Jos. R Rutherford Council ors Sims McLean Albert Cox Joseph Stovel, Nathan McKersie

1931—Reeve Jos. R Rutherford, Councillors. Sims McLean, Albert Cox, Joseph Stovel, Nathan McKersie

1932—Reeve, Adam Wood (died n office), Sims McLean. Councillors Sims McLean (resigned to run for the Reeveship) Albert Lush John A. Stewart David H. Storey John Hindley

933—Reeve, Sims McLean. Councillors, John Hindley, Albert Lush David H Storey, John A. Stewart

1934—Reeve, Sims McLean Councillors John Hindley Albert Lush. David H Storey. John A. Stewart

935—Reeve, Sims McLean. Councillors John Hindley, Albert Lush David H Storey, John A. Stewart

936—Reeve, David H Storey Councillors John Hindley. Albert Lush David D. Gray, Wm J Pinkney

1937 -Reeve David H. Storey Councillors. Albert Lush John Hindley, D D. Gray, Wm J. Pinkney.

938 -Reeve. D. H Storey Councillors D D. Gray Albert Lush Wm J Pinkney, Thos. E. Kelly.

1939—Reeve. D D Gray. Councillors Wm. J Pinkney Ernest H. Benham, Roy I Leslie, Jos. R. Rutherford.

1940—Reeve, D. D Gray, Councillors Wm, J. Pinkney, E. H Benham Roy I. Leslie, Jos. R. Rutherford

94- -Reeve D D Gray Councillors: Wm J. Pinkney, E. H. Benham, Roy I. Leslie, Jos. R. Rutherford

1942—Reeve, D. D Gray Councillors Wm J Pinkney, E H. Benham. Roy I Leslie, Jos R Rutherford.

1943—Reeve, D D. Gray Councillors Wm. J Pinkney E. H Benham, Roy I Leslie, Jos. R. Rutherford.

1944—Reeve. D D Gray. Councillors Wm J. Pinkney. E. H Benham, Roy I Leslie, Jos. R. Rutherford

1945—Reeve D D Gray Dep.-Reeve, Roy I Leslie. Councillors. E. H Benham, Jos. R. Rutherford Thos G. Hutchinson.

1946—Reeve D. D Gray Dep.-Reeve, Roy I Leslie. Councillors. E. H Benham, Jos. R Rutherford Thos. G Hutchinson.

947—Reeve D. D. Gray Dep.-Reeve, E. H Benham Councillors. Jos. R. Rutherford, Thos. G Hutchinson, Fred L Cox.

1948—Reeve, D. D. Gray Dep.-Reeve, E. H Benham. Councillors. Jos. R Rutherford Thos. G Hutchinson Fred L. Cox.

1949—Reeve. D D Gray Dep Reeve E H Benham. Councillors. Jos. R. Rutherford, Thos. G Hutchinson, Fred L Cox.

1950—Reeve D D Gray Dep Reeve, E. H Benham Councillors. Jos. R. Rutherford, Thos. G. Hutchinson Fred L Cox

1951—Reeve D D Gray Dep Reeve E H Benham. Councillors Jos. R Rutherford, Thos G Hutchinson Fred L Cox.

1952 Reeve E H Benham Dep Reeve Fred L. Cox Councillors Frank Ostrander Fred. Oakes Robert Kingsbury.

1953. Reeve E H Benham Dep Reeve. Fred L. Cox Councillors Frank Ostrander Fred Oakes. Francis Armstrong.

Clerks 1836 1849- James Peters 1850- 1855 —Wm Oliphant 1856-1863—James Mitchell, 1864 1882—John A Davidson 1883 1909—Hugh Black 1910-1915—W M Head. 1916-1931—J J Ardous 1932 1945—Frank Day 1945 1948—Geo. F Day 1948 1949—Frank Day 1949 1953—S S Royce

Treasurers—1836-1849—James Peters 1850—Jos. Parkinson 1852 1854-5—Wm. Oliphant 1856 1863—James Mitchell 1864 1876—Alex McQueen 1867 1881- Robert Royce. 1884 1891 John McKinnon 1894 1909—Hugh Black 1910 1926—John Mutrie. 1927-1931 Wm A Dickinson 1932 1945—Frank Day 1945 1948—Geo F Day 1948 1949—Frank Day 1949 1953—S S. Royce

## ODD FACTS

In its century old history Eramosa has had only one council in which all the four councillors later became Reeve This was the council for 1908 and 1909 composed of John Grieve Reeve Chas. McNabb James Black William Parkinson and Adam Wood Councillors. John Grieve died in office and Reeve in 1952 the four councillors who later became Reeve all died while in office as Reeve—Chas. McNabb in 1914 James Black and Wm. Parkinson in 1915 and Adam Wood in 1932

Until 1923 only four other members of Wellington County Council died while in office Two were Reeves of Drayton — John Powley in 1887 and L R Adams in 1889 Thos Whale Dep Reeve of Peel died in 1887 and Andrew McKechnie Dep.-Reeve of Erin in 911

## HISTORICAL NOTES BY JOSHUA NORRISH

Joshua Norrish of Nassagaweya published a history of that Township in 1889 it is considered to be an excellent record of valuable township history, written by a pioneer Joshua Norrish was a Councillor for Nassagaweya in 1857 J Y Norrish was the founder of the well known Shorthorn herd. Chas. F Norrish was Clerk of Nassagaweya from 1937 to 1946 and Stan Norrish is a Councillor in 1949 so the family history is blended with that of Nassagaweya The compilers of the Nassagaweya Centennial state that no better records can be found than those of Joshua Norrish Chapter V. The General History of Pioneers seeking and making a Home in the Bush is included here because Nassagaweya and Eramosa are adjoining townships surveyed in the same year (1819) and settled about the same time Joshua Norrish says that Robert Ramsay the first settler in Eramosa came from Ireland in 1816. He remained three years in the United States. then came to Canada and settled on Lot 1 Con 3 Eramosa In the year 1823 he bought 300 acres of land in Nassagaweya—Lot 32 Con 2 and the West ½ of Lot 32 Con 3 This would give him 500 acres spanning the present township and county line. Although Robert Ramsay purchased in Eramosa in 1819 and in Nassagaweya in 1823 his name was on the first assessment roll for Nassagaweya Therefore Joshua Norrish's description of pioneers and their efforts to settle in Nassagaweya could fittingly be applied to the Township of Eramosa.

Chapter VII.—' This Province was principally settled by immigrants from

the old country who in most cases were too poor to buy land and U E Loyalists from across the lines who came here after the war of Independence, and our Government provided free grants of land to these people And here I must explain the term U E Loyalist It was the people who were living in The United States during the war with England but who remained loyal to the Crown and at the close of the war either lost their property by confiscation or declined to live under what they considered a rebel flag came across the border and were known as United Empire Loyalists abbreviated as above or U E These then were furnished with free grants here according to their station in life There were some of them who had fought under the British flag against their neighbours and if they had risen to positions of honor as officers they would receive large grants for both male and female members of their families others would receive one or two hundred acres each I find it necessary to make this explanation as several have asked me already what I meant about the old settlers what these terms meant

Now then we have got one of these men he has been to the Crown Land Office and got a lot picked out for free settlement and he prepares himself to go tramp his way may consist of the following articles —A few potatoes a small tea kettle a blanket a little tea or coffee an axe or tomahawk and perhaps a gun If he was able to buy a pocket compass he would do so there he would be guided by the surveyors posts that mark on the trees as you go along through the wood and before the days of settlement roads he must not forget his tinder box and matches If the reader does not know what this is he must ask some one that does and when he has found a lot to suit him he selects a suitable site for his dwelling and erects his shanty near it leaving the best site for a future dwelling of more pretentious appearance Now then I will try as best I can to instruct him how to proceed

A shanty is built of logs and of various sizes but a good size is about 12 feet wide by 14 feet long notch the logs across each other at the corners and set them down as close on each other as possible put the butt end of the end logs to the front and by the time the building is high enough say about seven or eight logs it will have pitch enough for the roof Now for the most primitive kind of a roof get hollow basswood trees split them in two pieces lay a tier along the top of the building with the hollow side up then another tier with the hollow side down so the edges of the top ones will drop into the hollow of the under ones and you have a roof If you wish to enjoy the luxury of a floor you can make one with split logs and hew them with an axe The doorway is commonly cut in the front wall and a small window in the back

Next how to make a door If boards are not on hand Take cedar or light wood and split it near the size as you can and dress it with the axe or drawknife to the proper dimensions then make battens of hardwood about one inch square at one end and one inch by two inches at the other end the wide end to form a part of the hinge as well as a batten put an inch hole in the wide end for the hinge part two of these will make battens pin your boards to these with half inch pins make your pins with a small head on the outside and a wedge on the inside and you can have a strong door and half of the hinges for the other half of the hinges take another piece of hardwood one inch by two inches make one end to fit into the hole

in the batton with a shoulder to it put it to the door jamb and hang the door make the fastenings as desired

Now for the furniture For a table put two strong pins into the logs at the proper height and fasten boards to them and for seats take square blocks of wood from the ground or ough take a seat and put three or four legs in it and make a backboard and fasten it to the end log of the shanty at the right hand from the side to suit the length of the bed then another in the same way to suit the length of the bed take two pieces of wood make one end of each piece fast to the logs in the legs and where these cross each other put a post now you have a bedstead pretty nearly made and I think you can put the same under without any

Get moss and chink the cracks and you have a warm feeling without any iron out over a fire and there have been many such built in Nova Scotia Before we get to the chinking with moss and mortar the roof was made out of rough logs There were split out of logs pine about three feet long and about half as much thick and flat on one side to open for the light Then lay a log the length of the building on the wall to be then lay a log across at each end to project the roof poles about a foot at each side then put another right in the length of the building and lay it on these and so on about two feet apart This would be the beginning of the pitch of the roof then on the ending and another side log at the proper height to meet the gable then dress off the ends of the logs that project over the gable then cut in not touch the first log that projects over the gable Then split some small logs crap one side and lay on the gable end the other end on the first log that was laid over the gable on the side then a pole resting on the projecting end of that long log and keep the latter in place put in another pole parallel with and another two or three feet above it at both ends to keep them in place and continue until the building is finished This was commonly called a shanty but for a neat home stead and forest roof

These buildings not but they answered the purpose at the time of course the logs were used and the roofs shingled these buildings at that time but they would be [illegible] But these [illegible] gave way for better buildings especially if the man had a wife but if he was an old bachelor he would hang on to them a long while A log house properly built made a very comfortable house the common size was about twenty feet by twenty-six and about twelve logs high a barn about twenty eight by forty feet and about sixteen logs high A have had many men express their surprise at how these logs were got up there I will try and describe how we did it the way we because I have taken my part at the business both on the walls and on the ground

It would take forty men to raise a barn eight of these would be on the building Put a log up and then another man would put a notch in one side turn it down on this side and make what we call a saddle on the other side Have skids of various lengths to be used as the building goes up and crotch poles also A notch is made as follows Get a piece of wood with a natural bend of the shape of an elbow about three or four inches thick and each part about a foot long bore a two inch hole at the angle and in a good

straight pole the length required if a long pole intended to reach to the top of the building put an inch hole through it with an inch pin about four feet from the bottom end and another one about four feet above that These were to lift by if a shorter pole one pin would do If everything was ready to go to work with and good men on the corners a barn could be got up in ten hours very well if this was not so they might be very late in finishing. and I have seen when fires had to be kindled on the ground to give the men light on the corners

The first implement required on the land was the old crotch harrow made in the shape of the letter A out of round poles with four or five inch and quarter iron teeth in each side and one in the crossbar and the teeth were set to slant a little back at the points so as to slip over the roots The next was the shovel plow the share which was about a the iron about it was a plate about the shape of a round mouthed shovel and instead of running flat was set at an angle of about forty five degrees it would merely scrape the ground and make enough loose soil to cover the seed But should I attempt to describe the different plows we have had since I might go on without end

Another term here in regard to the good old times that are past There was a law in force in the days I have been writing about requiring people to ear-mark their live stock and register their marks in the town book and I will copy a few of them and try to explain them for the benefit of the young of the present generation John Bell's cattle sheep and hogs is a half penny out of the underpart of each ear This half penny is made as follows Double the point of the ear back to the head of the animal and with a pair of shears nip off a piece at the point where the ear is bent Thomas Harris cattle sheep and hogs is a slit in the left ear and a half crop off the right ear Now everybody knows what a slit is To make a half crop make a slit in the end of the ear first and then take one of the pieces off A crop is to take a piece off the point of the ear Another mark here is called a swallow point This is made by doubling the ear lengthwise and taking out a piece of the point This would leave a mark in the end of the ear shaped like the fork of a swallow's tail

I should have said a word before now in regard to the settling duties required of parties when drawing land from the Government They were required to chop down and chop up one half of the road allowance in front of their lot, and to have an oath from some person that this was done before they could get their deed Some men made a business of doing this work and their mode of operation was thus They would go to the one end of the piece required to be chopped and strike a few strokes down and up then go to the other end and do likewise then go to some Magistrate and make the necessary oath that they had complied with the regulations On this being forwarded to the office the parties could get their deed Joshua Norrish goes on to tell of Robert Ramsay buying 300 acres from William H Ball He says that the land cost Ramsay £22 for each hundred acres, but he had Ball's settling duties to perform and now I will give you an example of this business Two men Harker and Lyon from near Dundas. came along and bargained to do the whole job for a cow and $15 These men spent half a day did the work as I have described above, got their pay at noon, and the thing was done I have often heard Mr Ramsay tell

about the inconveniences of these old times No teams no roads no markets not the smallest article of merchandise could be got nearer than Dundas Still they lived and made improvements

Mr Norrish closes his famous history as follows I have given a sketch of everything that I think would be interesting in the history of our township I have given the origin and traced the progress of our municipal institutions our churches schools and leading industries down to the present time with dates as far as obtainable I have given the names of our first settlers in the order in which they came here and a history of their doings and some of the hardships they had to endure I have had related to me many of their adventures with bears and wolves when wandering in the bush but these were all so much alike that I have thought it might be just as well to leave them out altogether I have followed the old Assessment Rolls until 1832 There was not a great increase in 833 than in 834 half of this lost and the whole 1835 and 1836 which made a gap that I could not see my way clear to get over neither could I have made it generally interesting had I done so it would also have entailed more expense in printing and this did not feed disposed to incur With many thanks to those who have assisted me in this enterprise I bring this little volume to a close and if the reader finds as much satisfaction in reading it as I have in compiling it, we shall all be pleased.

J Norrish
September 16th 1889

## MENTAL AND POLITICAL ATTITUDE OF EARLY SETTLERS

It is possible to gather some idea of the make up of early settlers from conditions and incidents recorded at the time Wellington County Atlas records that John Black the father of Elder James Black, was disgusted with Colonel Thomas Talbot's administration near St Thomas C O Ermatinger in The Talbot Regime records That the Colonel was looked upon as an autocrat and a Tory was enough to arouse the resentment of some and when a Mr Black presumably for political purposes persuaded many that Colonel Talbot was withholding from them 50 acres which really belonged to themselves they became his active opponents and marched to the polls headed by a piper to record their votes against Burwell and Bostwick the candidates the Colonel was supposed to favour So the Black attitude and probably the attitude of many other settlers is readily understood The poorer settlers had left heart breaking conditions in England Scotland and Ireland hoping for freedom and plenty in a new land. Instead they found a powerful second rate aristocracy in charge of affairs with all the snobbish superiority complex of the old lands plus added power to oppress the poor

This added power was due to the fact that many of the settlers had spent their all in travelling to Canada and had to stay and bear with the arbitrary dealings of Colonel Talbot and similar officials Their scattered locations small numbers and lack of communication prevented organized efforts for justice that might have helped somewhat in the more thickly populated areas of the mother lands From more than one source we have heard of early settlers who would gladly have returned to the British Isles

if they could have found the necessary money for a return ticket So we find them little more than slaves in a supposedly free land.

Probably the Talbot scheme was somewhat more rotten than land settlement in Eramosa but the basic principles were the same Col Talbot had full backing from successive Governors and full support from London in his overbearing methods He was descended from Lord Talbot de Malahide of Castle Malahide nine miles North of Dublin Apparently from childhood he was accustomed to living on the public purse for he was granted a commission in the army at the age of 1 and almost immediately retired on half pay That was the neat and acceptable manner of sponging by the nobility in those days but it was only chicken feed compared with milking the public purse in Canada

Colonel Talbot asked the King for the grant of a whole township at first for his personal use This was refused but later he asked for 5 000 acres and was given this amount of land in addition to the 200 acres usually granted to an army officer The settlers were not pleased with this set up but when the government agreed that the Colonel should receive 150 acres more out of every 200 acres settled so that a settler wishing to increase his 50 acre farm area must buy from the Colonel Mr Black and others objected

This was not all Some idea of the autocratic government may be gathered from Col Talbot's first and only political speech to the settlers which he commenced in befitting style thus— Silence and Attention! I find it necessary to begin by contradicting an assertion that was published in a production addressed to the inhabitants of Middlesex signed Freeholder which was from beginning to end nothing but trash sedition and lies which stated that my object was to overawe and browbeat my settlers into an expression of my own choice That I deny for such a measure would have frustrated the main object I had in view in calling this meeting for I am too well acquainted with the nature of mankind to suppose for a moment that any sound or honest man would allow himself to be overawed or browbeaten as regarded the question upon which we meet as they would naturally be governed by the dictates of their own consciences I have chosen this day as being St Georges Day — the champion of the greatest nation on earth and all who claim to be her sons either by birth or adoption should feel proud accordingly and with hands and hearts under the sacred banner that is now waving over our heads determined with our lives to defend our King our rights and our glorious constitution against all conspirators and rebels of every nation and denomination whatsoever

"When I undertook the formation of this settlement between 20 and 30 years ago it was in the hope that I should have none other but sound British subjects for my settlers so as to insure peace and good fellowship amongst us and I took every pains to select characters of that description but in spite of all my vigilance I am sorry to find I have not been successful Some black sheep have slipped into my flock and very black they are What is worse, they have got the rot and distemper not known to have shown itself openly until within the last six or eight months—when these (which I shall call for shortness rebels) commenced their work of darkness under the

cover of organizing Damned Cold Water Drinking Societies, where they met at night to communicate their poisonous and seditious schemes to each other and to devise the best mode of circulating the infection so as to impose upon and delude the simple and unwary. Although practising this game they fancied they had acquired strength and assumed a more daring aspect and appeared openly beside the mast at the grievance petitions which have never been or heard the particular contents of and was I pressed before me I should not relate the trouble I read being aware that it was a thing of trash and seditious grounded on falsehood fabricated for the purpose of creating discontent and in the end to overturn the province. The only part that I pay any attention to is that which prays His Majesty to remove Sir John C from the government of the province for my part I cannot account how that gallant and distinguished officer incurred the displeasure of this faction otherwise than by showing himself openly to the world a straightforward honest faithful and loyal servant of his King and country. Such qualifications were indeed sufficient to render him odious in the sight of rebels. I have not the honor of being intimately acquainted with His Excellency as a private gentleman but I have watched his conduct as a public officer during his administration and solemnly declare that there could not have been a person selected who could have more indefatigably exerted himself to promote the best interests of the province than he has done. And as such he has a just claim to the respect and gratitude of every honest man and well wisher to the well doing of Upper Canada.

These gentlemen opened their campaign accordingly having their first field day on Marsh Jo where their greatest strength proves to where I am told the old Scholastic line turned out in full force having a Yankee deserter for their drill sergeant and a long sprout from a JP for their flag staff. There can be no doubt they went through the manoeuvres of that day without exposing themselves and that they did not disperse until they had devoutly chanted their psalm which they used to sing during the late war after every little advantage the enemy obtained. I do not recollect the words of the hymn but the conclusion of the horse after each verse was Hurrah for the new state. Now these deluded men who were total strangers when they came into this province and in every sense of the word as much foreigners as Turks would be that came into any part of the British dominions. Nevertheless they were received with every kindness and as much favour conferred on them as could be on British born subjects and now that they have acquired wealth and independence and extensive estates they that whenever any of you hear any traitorous utterances or endeavour to excite disaffection by word or deed that you will give him a kick that he will remember during his life. This day I hope may be kept in remembrance by you all as a day of salvation and mercy and that you will implant it in the hearts of your children and to the latest posterity as a day of examination of your actions for the past year so that all corruption may be cast out. Now God in His infinite goodness and mercy bless and preserve you all that are true British subjects and keep your hearts and minds untainted by sedition and corruption.

Later the Colonel wrote that he had a most splendid victory on St George's Day and nothing could have gone off better.

By January, 1833, it was evident that the Colonel's great speech and splendid victory of the previous St George's Day had not produced complete political tranquility for on the 26th of that month he writes of another splendid victory.

"My rebels endeavoured to hold a meeting at St Thomas on the 17th, Dr Frankin's birthday as I am informed, but in which they were frustrated by my royal guards who routed the rascals at all points and drove them out of the village like sheep, members with broken heads leaving their hats behind them—the glorious work of old Colonel Hickory In short, it was a most splendid victory."

Mr Ermatinger said in 1903 "Judging Colonel Talbot by present day standards. It is easy to depict him a monster of cruelty oppression, rapacity and intemperance—as indeed it seems rather the fashion now to paint him. Placed in the light and shade and amid the environments of the days in which he lived probably he would present a different figure and moral aspect to his critics."

Later Mr Ermatinger says "Much depends upon the point of view from which he is regarded—whether from the standpoint of the commencement or the close of the nineteenth century. Judged by the standard of the latter he appears to have been autocratic and intolerant in his opinions and public acts and in the performance of his official duties and in his private life irreligious blasphemous and in his later years especially, well nigh besotted."

This was the man that represented the British government to the settlers: he was at parliament King council, school board magistrate Colonel all rolled into one and with the fullest backing all down the line from the King. British Parliament Governor Military authorities etc.

McKenzie rebelled shortly after Colonel Talbot's speech, it has often been said that the one point where McKenzie erred was in taking up arms but surely there must be some excuse in using a gun to defend oneself against a hickory stick It is a question which is most humane or inhumane.

It is easy to see that rebellion might be expected and the sending out of Sir Francis Bond as Lieutenant Governor in 836 was the last straw. He was well educated and had travelled extensively but to use his own words he was as wholly unacquainted with public affairs as the horses which drew his carriage and had never attended a public meeting or voted. He quickly brought the pot to a boil by summarily dismissing the Executive Council, who wanted some recognition of public opinion. Sir Francis also withheld public expenditure saying that lack of money would soon bring the people to his views. He was just another cog with Colonel Talbot in the high mucky-mucky regime. The strange part was that the party could win an election but eventually better policies prevailed to start the program towards the freedom we enjoy today.

The following quotation containing words of wisdom is made from Edward Ermatingers biography of Colonel Talbot. He was deficient in humility. He set out in life with the best intentions but he neglected the only safe course to carry them out. Like many other great men he relied

too much on the strength of his own mind. We have seen that in early life he did not neglect the ordinances of religion he did not at once abandon those ordinances of devotion with which he had become familiarized in the society of the civilized world but the habit of self reliance in religion led him astray as it has frequently done other men The mind of man is so wonderfully constructed that no matter how perfect the intellect or how exalted the genius if he does not implicitly rely on strength superior to his own and habitually make use of the means which religion places within his reach his strength becomes weakness Of this great fact history furnishes innumerable instances and we have examples daily before our eyes Men acquire wealth fame and earthly glory in this life. but if they have not made religion their first and chief consideration the hour of death is a blank space in their existence. and they have toiled for worse than nothing

Much of the foregoing covers territory other than Eramosa but it is necessary to an understanding of the political feeling and social conditions of Eramosa settlers at that time A democracy cannot be static improvement is its watchword We have seen the iniquitous Tory machine of the 1830's smashed and watched the Liberal machine flourish and grow strong as it plugs the Senate the Courts and most government positions Perhaps an overdose of Liberal power will prompt a turn to the C C F but restrictions in Britain prove that liberty is not permanently safe with a government of that nature It appears that the few independent voters hold the fate of democracy in their hands and that only by periodical chastening can any of our political parties be kept mindful of their responsibilities to the people The old parties have plenty of funds and opportunity for publicity but the C C F is not so affluent it is becoming increasingly interesting to watch their efforts for a little publicity All that Ed Jolliffe or one of the C C F members needs to do is to utter a few words of criticism of high finance or of George McCullagh (died in 1952) in the Provincial Legislature and a day or two later the Globe explodes with a bang that is heard across the Dominion the C.C F gets more free publicity than it can afford to pay for.

# Schools

(Written in 1936)

According to the minutes of the township, a meeting of the School Commissioners for the Township of Eramosa was held in the Central School House on June 25th 1842 John Harris was nominated as a fit and proper person for Chairman by George Armstrong and James Black the other two members were John Butchart and James Loghrin John Harris lived at Rockwood James Loghrin and George Armstrong in the Speedside district, John Butchart on the Eramosa Road (No 24 Highway) on the property now owned by the present Reeve D H Storey James Black family known as Elder James Black lived on Lot 7 Concession 7 At this time there was a place of worship on this property or just across the road on the sixth concession and Elder James Black was one of the earliest preachers in the district it will be noticed that the north corner of the township was not represented on this board the north corner was not yet settled to any great extent and no schools were provided for that district until eight years later

It appears that at the time of this meeting there were at least four schools in operation in the township The sisters of John Harris had started a school near the Rockwood Academy in 1830 This appears to have been the first school in what is now the County of Wellington The Centre School House mentioned as the place of meeting had been used for township meetings since 1836 I cannot quite locate where this building stood it must have been somewhere near The Centre Inn on the fourth line for the new Central School arranged for at this meeting was to be built at the junction of the Rockwood line and the Eramosa Road At the time of this meeting there was also a school where No 1 School now stands and a building nearly finished on the site of McCormick's Cemetery on the second line These schools were all apparently private schools or schools built and operated by community effort without any official township organization At the meeting in June of 1842 the settled part of the township was divided into five school districts and organized education continues from that date

No 1 School was taken over by the board the nearly finished school at McCormick's Cemetery was also taken over The board agreed to build a new school for No 3 District at a site on the north corner of Lot 26. Concession 1 or on some of the three corners adjacent thereto a new school for No 4 District just east of Rockwood and a new Central School at the junction of the Rockwood line and the Eramosa Road for No 5 District Of these five school sites Numbers 1 and 3 are the only ones at present in use for school purposes No 3 is now known as No 4 Speedside) the stone tablet built into the face of the school in 1863 still shows No 3 The original buildings have all disappeared except the original No 4 (which is now the residence of Miss Mary Hall at the C N R crossing just east of Rockwood)

The above was written in 1936 In the mid 40's the writer was subpoenaed as township clerk to attend at the Court House Guelph at a law suit concerning the ownership of the original No 4 School It appeared in evidence that the land had been deeded for a school by one David Shultis, who like other grantees of land for public purposes had attached a string to the deed providing for the return of the land to the original owners if it was not required for school purposes The return clause would read something like this which was copied from the deed to Everton School PROVIDED ALWAYS and it is hereby expressly agreed by and between the several parties hereto that whenever the said lands shall not be required for the uses and purposes aforesaid the Trustees of the said School Sections are to reconvey the said lands to the said party of the First Part his heirs or assigns without costs or other charges other than the necessary and legal expenses connected with such reconveyance which are to be paid by the said party of the First Part his heirs or assigns and the said Trustees and their Successors are to have full and absolute authority to sell or otherwise dispose of and remove the whole of the material of all the buildings fences and other appurtenances thereunto belonging erected lying and being on the said lands at any time previous to but not exceeding twelve months after the execution of such reconveyance without let or hindrance on the part of the party of the First Part his heirs executors administrators or assigns to such sale or removal

We shall see that in 1871 the township was reorganized into nine sections and this particular land was right on the border between Sections eight and nine, therefore was not required by either section and reverted to the Shultis family. Mr Shultis daughter married a man named Hill a relative of the great J. J. Hill. They had no home so the father gave them the use of the old school if they would fix it up as a dwelling which they did. The Hill families occupied the old school for over seventy years but the title rested with the Shultis family until the law declared that the Hills had acquired ownership during the seventy years and the old school house became the residence of Mr. George Ingle. It is possible that part of the residence at School No. 1 includes the original school there but the present school was built much later.

The five school districts served the township until 1850 when Districts six and seven were added to serve the same territory as S.S. No. 6 at this date (1936) and No. 7 covered what is now S.S. No. 5 and part of S.S. No. 4½. In 1870 the township was divided into eight school sections of equal size each section being eight lots in length and three and a half concessions in width numbered as Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 at this time. It was then that No. 3 District became Section No. 4. In 1871 Rockwood clamoured for a school and S.S. No. 9 was carved from Sections Nos. 1, 2, 7 and 8. In Apr. 189 S.S. No. 4 was established taking territory from Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6. S.S. No. 0 was erected in 1905 comprising parts of Sections 2, 3, 6, 7 and 9. Several by-laws were passed by the councils of Eramosa and neighbouring townships at the requests of interested parties, whereby union sections were formed by allowing section boundaries to cross the town lines in various directions. In 1936 Eramosa had a part in nine Union Sections formed in this manner.

To get back to the meeting in 1842 the school houses for Districts 3, 4 and 5 arranged for at this meeting were to be frame buildings 24 feet square nine feet in the clear two windows of twenty lights on each side each light 8 x 10 roof to project over sides and ends 20 inches cottage roof outside to be rough-cast inside to be ceiled 3 feet high or to the bottom of the windows lathed and plastered above a strong batten door the building to be set on a stone wall with lime mortar with the end front to the road. The schools for Districts Numbers 3 and 5 were built by Joseph Wood Jr. at £39 9s. each other costs for No. 3 were Site and registration £1.0.0 stove and pipes £4.0.0.

At a meeting on November 17th 1842 Henry Masters applied to be appointed as teacher in the 3rd School District. The clerk records. On examination he is not considered sufficiently qualified to be permanently employed. The board appointed him to that position until December 31st 1843. On the Monday previous to the second Tuesday in October 1842 the Board agreed to the following Rules and Regulations for the Conduct of Schools viz. Hours of attendance from nine in the morning until noon and from one o'clock until four in the afternoon. Schools to be kept eleven days in two weeks and a Vacation of one Week in haytime or Harvest and also from the 24th day of December until the 2nd day of January. All gambling and trading strictly prohibited among the scholars. Morality and cleanliness to be strictly attended to. The Common Version of the English

Bible is recommended to be used in schools, except by the children of such Parents as object thereto. Other books are left to the discretion of the teachers until further orders from the Board. The Clerk is directed to furnish a copy of these rules to each of the teachers to be put up in their respective schools."

## HISTORY OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF THE VILLAGE OF ROCKWOOD, TOWNSHIP OF ERAMOSA

By Mrs. A. R. Hewat

The year 1823 witnessed the innovation of Education in Rockwood and, indeed, in the entire district for it was in that year that the first school in what is now the County of Wellington was established. The school-house was situated on what is now an empty lot on the corner formed by the junction of the lane leading to the United Church sheds and No. 7 highway in the south end of the village.

In common with most of the schools in operation in the rural districts of Upper Canada at the time, it was a private one. It was started by two educated ladies from Ireland, the Misses Harris, half sisters of John Harris, one of the earliest pioneers to settle in the Township of Eramosa.

The opening of this school preceded by 19 years the introduction of the township school system, the first government school to serve the Rockwood district being started in 1842. This school-house, then known as No. 4, is one of the very few built in that period to remain standing to-day. The proverbial "little red school-house" it is now the cottage situated at the Canadian National Railway crossing just east of the village and occupied by Miss Mary Hill.

While this school was in fact a Township one, it was not supported by a general tax on all property in the district but only by those who made use of its facilities. Consequently for some years after its establishment the salary of the teachers depended entirely upon the number of pupils they taught. It was not until 1851 that the teacher received a fixed amount for his services, his salary in that year being set at £50. At the annual meeting of 1852 with Squire Henry Strange as chairman it was decided to adopt the Free school system with the teacher's salary set at £85 per annum, but all scholars over 12 years of age to pay 1 shilling 8 pence per month. In 1857 the teacher's salary was raised to £100 and a year later the section was taxed for $360.00 (note change from sterling to dollar currency).

The first trustees of No. 4 school-house were Elder James Black, John Harris and Alex. Burns, pioneers who, with their descendants, have figured largely in the development of school, church and municipal life of the district.

The first teacher was John Robertson. He served until 1849 when he was succeeded by Wm. Wetherald. Mr. Wetherald resigned in 1850 and a few years later started a school for advanced education which later became known as the Rockwood Academy. No history of the progress of education in Rockwood, or indeed in the province, would be complete without mention of this school, which became quite well-

known and attracted pupils from all parts of the province. Quite a number of Mr. Wetherald's pupils made a name for themselves in the political and economic life of the Dominion of Canada J. J. Hill of railroad fame, and Sir Adam Beck, pioneer of hydro, to mention two of them. This school operated successfully for some years but was finally edged out by the inevitable introduction of Government High Schools. The old building is still in use today being the farm house of Wm. Gordon situated on No. 7 highway just south of the village.

The remarkably rapid advance of educational facilities from 1857 onwards is a tribute to the preservation and self sacrifice of the early settlers. The population of the district was small, money was scarce, and the cost of education to each individual considerable. While the political and religious differences of settlers much more pronounced than now were undoubtedly a drawback to other forms of community development they were not seriously detrimental to education. By mutual consent their differences were subordinated to the advancement of those educational facilities which their keen foresight deemed essential to the proper development of the community.

The "little red school house" served Rockwood until 1873, when a shake up in the school sections gave Rockwood a school of its own. This resulted in the building of the present school house. Before the new building was completed, however, school was conducted for a time in the Town Hall.

An amusing incident occurred during this period which may bear relating. The personal habits of the teacher who had the school at the time rather tended to the not infrequent use of beverages. It quite often happened that the urge for liquid refreshment came upon him during class hours and on these occasions it was his custom to lock his charges in the building while he wended his way to the public house to slake his thirst. On one of these occasions his refreshment must have produced complete oblivion for when closing time arrived no teacher appeared. Time went on. Supper time came and went. Still no teacher. The pupils busily engaged in having a high old time finally attracted the attention of passers by. Presently anxious parents began to arrive to ascertain the cause of the non-return of their offspring. A widespread search for the errant teacher produced no results and finally it was necessary to break down the doors to release the tired but happy pupils.

The new building was completed in 1873 and the attendance rapidly increased. In 1921 the High or Continuation School was established and in 1930 another storey was added to the building. To-day the school employs five teachers and has an attendance of 180.

Rockwood Ontario May 1 1937

## SCHOOL NO. 1, ERAMOSA

School No. 1 was in operation previous to 1842, but the earliest mention of it is when it was taken over by the Township School Commissioners on June 25th, 1842. It appears that in some cases a school house was built as a residence for the teacher before the school was built. The

itinerant teacher travelled from settlement to settlement giving instruction in much the same way that the traveling preachers operated Therefore we find a school house built in No 2 in 1839 and school opened in 1842. School was also opened in No 1 District in 1842 when the Township School Commissioners began school government The title was No 1 School District at that time and the word District is used in the minutes of the first meeting of the local trustees in March 1844 also in 845 and 1846. School Section No 1 first appears in the minutes of the ocal annual meeting of ratepayers on January 12th, 1847

At the first meeting of ratepayers of School District No 1 held by order of the Superintendent in March 1844, John Duffield William Phin and Timothy O Connor were elected trustees Cornelius Sheehan was the teacher at Four Pounds per month On January 2nd 1845, Patrick Downey was engaged as teacher at Forty two Pounds per year Patrick Downey appears to have been the father of the late J P Downey for many years M P P for Wellington South (See Wellington County Atlas. 1906)

On January 12th, 1847 Paul Kribs replaced John Duffield as trustee and on the 14th at a meeting of the trustees held in the house of Wm Phin this day Patrick Downey was re engaged as teacher for twelve months from the first of January at Four Pounds per month Patrick Downey to have a house The number of children in the Section between the ages of 5 and 16 at this date was 118 number of children taught was 86

The Section at this time has a distinctly Irish flavour and apparently was predominately Catholic William Phin lived on the West half of Lot 5. Con 2 now the home of Gerald Kean William Phin was a Justice of the Peace and his daughter Sarah married John Kean Tim O Connor lived on the East half of the same lot Steve Driscoll was on Lot 4 Con 1. Other names mentioned about this time are the Sullivans on the W half of Lot 6, Con 1 the McGibbons on Lot 7 and Fitzpatricks on Lot 10 The Murphys owned Lot 3 Con 2 and Lots 3 and 5 Con 3 The Shehans were on Lot 4 Con 1 John Coffee was on the E half of Lot 6, Con. 1

On Feb. 9th 1855 Charles O Neil contracted to dig a well for the school house at the following rates —The first ten feet to be dug or blasted and then stoned up at the rate of thirteen shillings and sixpence per foot the second ten feet to be blasted or drilled at the rate of 15/ per foot and beyond that depth to be blasted or drilled until sufficient quantity may be found at the rate of 17.6 per foot and all made ready for the pump The contract written out and signed and sealed. Adjourned.

In 1847 John Gobla was elected trustee in place of Paul Kribs removed The number of children in the section between five and 16 was 127 number taught 123 Pat Downey taught until March 1852 when he was succeeded by Arthur Lynden William Bowes was teacher in 1854 resigning in November In December the trustees engaged John Firstbrook (late teacher at Puslinch Plains) Number of children in the section 160 on the School Register 106 John Firstbrook resigned at the end of September apparently there was friction between the teacher and the trustees (not too clearly defined in the minutes) concerning the poor condition of the teacher's residence

The trustees engaged Samuel A Anson for the balance of the year and at the annual meeting of freeholders and householders on January 9th, 1856 it was moved by James Argo seconded by John Moore and carried — That the trustees be recommended not to re-engage Mr Anson as Teacher of the Section unless he shall find two securities for his moral conduct for the next twelve months and to allow him until next Saturday to find said securities

Joshua Steves Chairman John A Davidson, Secretary

January 4th 1856 —Trustees met Agreed that whereas Mr Samuel A Anson the late teacher having failed to find the securities in terms of the resolution passed at the general annual meeting of the section he shall be served with a notice to quit possession of the teachers residence on or before the 24th day of January 1856 Appointed Mr Duffield to make inquiries in Guelph for another teacher previous to issuing a general advertisement January 22nd 856 Trustees met Engaged Mr Richard Unsworth who holds a first class certificate) as Teacher at the rate of £95 (Ninety five Pounds) per annum with the use of the old school house as a residence [illegible] 862 William Phin H H Swinford and Isaac Laight were the trustees In 863 William Weir was the teacher at $400 00 per annum At a meeting of the trustees on January 1st 870 at Matt Ostranders the merits etc of the different applicants as Teacher was considered Mr A. Campbell was considered the choice of the lot November 1870 Engaged Mr Donald McKillie as Teacher at $350 00 per annum On January 13th 1855. the trustees paid for advertising for Teachers Wanted —George Pine Guelph Herald 7 4 John Smith Guelph Advertiser 8 8 George M Keeling Wellington Mercury, 7 shillings

An interesting document endorsed Printed Circular' addressed to William Phin Esq S S No 1 Eramosa Guelph P O bears the datestamp Rockwood U C July 12th 1859 and reads as follows — Office of the Supt of Common Schools Wellington To the Trustees of School Section No One Township of Eramosa GENTLEMEN The amount due to your School Section from the Legislative School Grant for the half year ending June 30th 1859 is $69 28 For the convenience of the Teachers of your township I will attend to issue cheques in their favor at ——on—— Should your Teacher not find it convenient to meet me there I will Mail Cheques to him on receipt of your order at my office here. I have the honor to be Gentlemen, Your obedient servant James Kilgour Supt of Common Schools

A list of pupils attending School Section No 1 Eramosa from January 1st 1856 to 24th December according to the Register and the same as the list furnished to the Trustees for the Superintendent reads as follows — E. McFarland M A McFarland Jane McFarland Jane Bradley Elizabeth Bradley Fanny Bradley Eleanor Moore Elizabeth Moore Elizabeth Horton, Elizabeth Smith Catharine Smith Esther Argo Margaret Argo Jane Argo, Isabelle Meadows Fanny Meadows Catharine Davidson Amanda Warner, Martha Warner Jane Burton Isabella Swanson M A Millard Alice Millard, Isabella Wilson Mary Barber Maria Kelly Ellen Kelly Betsey Duffield Lucy Duffield Rachel Duffield 1st Sarah E Phin Maria Foster Sarah Wharton, Julia Cummins, Deborah Benson, Isabelle Kemp. Anastasia Ward, Bridget

Bowe Caroline McFarlane Margaret I McFarlane, Catharine McWilliams, M A Roberts Rhoda Warner, Henrietta Hellane Ann Argo, Elizabeth Shea Rachel Sunley 2nd Martha Fielding Ellen McEllstrum, Nicholas Swanson, Mary Corner Harriet Hawkins William Hortop Henry Hortop, Wm McFarlane James Davidson Henry Bolton David Millard William Duffield, James Duffield Ed Fitzpatrick Patrick Bowe James Bowe Daniel Murphy A f Hughes Wm McDonald, A McDonald John Warner Thos. Warner M Wald Geo Smith Frances Berson Daniel Cummins. John Swanson. Geo Kemp, Emmanuel Kemp Thos Kemp John Kemp. John Wilson, John Wilson 2nd Hugh Wharton Thos Wharton Dennis McEllistrum Richard McEllstrum Robt Barber Alex Moore John Moore R. Moore Geo Foster Geo Roberts Thos Burton Jas Hawkins, Wm. Hawkins Thos Hawkins Chas Burton Wm Davidson Geo. Moore 97

The enrolment at No 1 School decreased until about 949 when it was 35 Particulars concerning the reduction in size of the section by the township division into 8 sections the further reduction of No 1 when No. 9 was formed and the still further reduction when No 10 was formed. are related in other parts of these notes The Section was finally absorbed into the Eramosa Township School Area in 1945 and the enrolment at No. 1 School has increased to such an extent that it was found necessary to convey Grades 7 and 8 to Rockwood School by bus for the school year 1951 1952.

## S. S. No. 2

This district was settled early probably most of the land was taken up in 1822 or 1823 There were two streams of settlers entering the township in those years one coming up through Nassagaweya and entering the township south of Rockwood and another coming from the direction of Galt and Guelph entering Eramosa about Barrie Hill As these two streams fanned out they would cover the territory known as No 2 section before much of the township was settled One secretary of the section or school district as it was first called has recorded "School House built in the year 1839 School first opened in 1844"

The first meeting of School Commissioners on June 25th 842 records that a school for No 2 District had been partly built by private enterprise and was taken over by the commissioners on that date It seems fairly clear that this school was on the site of McCormick's Cemetery West half of Lot 17 Con 2 Since only three districts were provided for the Southwesterly part of the township it is probable that each district would be ten or eleven lots in length This would leave Lot 17 fairly central for No 2 District

It appears that when township councils were formed in 1850 the School Commissioners were disbanded the school districts were called sections and each elected its own three trustees The first trustees for S S No 2 were Henry Scott Robert Dryder and John McKerlie Notice was given on October 4th 853 that a meeting would be held on the second Wednesday of January 854 to consider building a dwelling house for the teacher The ratepayers meeting instructed the trustees to build and a contract was let at £67 0 0 the key was handed to the teacher on July 1st Among the entries connected with this house is an item paid John A. Armstrong for 1½

days of oxen and man Eleven shillings and three pence For the year 1855 Peter Elmslie the teacher was paid £70.00 with dwelling house garden etc Peter got £90.00 in 856 and was promised £ 20.00 for 1857 but he left in the middle of Apr The annual meeting on the second Wednesday of January 1855 requested the trustees to instruct the teacher to give notice to parents and guardians having children at school to bring each two or three loads of wood as their portion of fuel for the present year

January 14th 1863 Annual Meeting Mr H Totton having brought the question of moving the present site of the school before the meeting it was moved and seconded that the wishes of this meeting be ascertained on the subject when the majority by a show of hands appeared opposed to any movement being taken in the matter at present Moved and seconded that a new site be chosen in some central place in this section and that the trustees be empowered to purchase an acre of ground on the sideroad between Lot 15 and 16 Moved and seconded as an amendment to the latter part of the preceding motion that an acre of land be purchased Amendment lost Moved and seconded that the trustees apply to the township council to open up the sideroad between Lot 15 and 16 Moved and seconded that this application on the part of the trustees shall depend upon the selection of the site made

At a trustees meeting on the same date it is recorded Trustees met Present Messrs Totton Scott and Dryden Agreement between Trustees and Teacher was duly signed and sealed in presence of Witness— The Teacher agreed to make out and furnish the Rate Bills quarterly and to light the fire daily on condition that kindling wood be furnished him April 9th 1863 Moved by Mr Totton and seconded by Mr Scott and resolved That as the Map forwarded to the School by A Smith Esq has been retained through a wrong and illegal manner and moreover not being adapted to the school the Trustees refuse to take it A copy of the following resolution to be forwarded to Mr Smith Geo Dryden Chairman The annual meeting on January 13th 869 empowered the trustees to purchase from Mr Grierson a site to table for a new school house on the south corner of his lot On June 5th 869 Wm T Grierson was paid $ 50.00 for the site [The trustees resold the land to Mr Grierson in December 870 for $100.00]

When the county for 1870 set up eight sections each eight lots in length and 3 concessions in width No 2 Section found the school to be out over the line in No 3 Section and the land they had bought from Mr Grierson was at the upper end of the section The McCormick school was at the South end of No 1 too far from the centre to be practicable Consequently each section had to arrange for a new school site on between the two sections as indicated by resolutions of No 2 chiefly concerning the contents of the McCormick School The year 1871 found No 2 trustees in an outward position as school on house The annual meeting was held on January 11th when Walter Swanton Lazarus Patterson and James Benham were elected trustees At a special meeting of ratepayers in McKerlie's Hall on January 21st there was a motion instructing the trustees to try again to treat with Mr Miller for land for a school site nearer the centre than the place which he proposes to give and if he cannot be prevailed upon to do so then to accept of his proposition Lost Another motion That if Mr

Miller will not dispose of land near the centre of the section, then the trustees to procure a site on the third concession was carried Another special meeting on May 19th was held in R Dryden's Hotel George Swanston and Elisha Loree sponsored a motion which was carried That a site be forced in the centre of the second concession on the Guelph and Erin Gravel Road on Lot 13 Eramosa Another motion That the school site be on the corner of Peter Miller's land next to Robert Dryden's on the Guelph and Erin Road, was lost This latter motion was carried at another special meeting on June 13th

On Sept 16th at another special meeting the following motion was passed on motion of James Benham and Elisha Loree That this meeting, having heard the report of the trustees touching the action they have taken to obtain land for a school site from Mr Miller and having duly considered the same hereby resolve and decide that the site in the form offered by Mr Miller be not accepted by this School Section and that no further action be taken by the Trustees to obtain land for a school site during the present year, and that the Trustees forward a copy of this resolution to Mr Miller December 4th 1871 At a meeting convened by special notice of the trustees of S S No 2 for the purpose of taking into consideration and deciding upon the manner in which necessary school accommodation shall be provided said section for the year 1872 it was moved and seconded that the Public School for No 2 be held in a building immediately in the rear of Wm. Hewes's Tavern Moved in amendment that the School for S S No 2 be held in what is known as the Town Hall J O Brien's on Said motion and amendment submitted to said meeting resulting in a majority for the motion

On January 17th 1872 Peter Miller was paid $150.00 for the site 38143 brick were purchased at $253 30 several local farmers were paid 40c per 100 for hauling brick T Murphy was the builder much of the money ($1 650 00) was borrowed from James W Benham at 8%. By 1876 there was an assistant teacher and the loans were all repaid Reconstruction of the Guelph and Erin Gravel Road (No. 24 Highway) in 949 spoiled the old school site and it was sold with the building to the Department of Highways A modern school on the opposite side of the highway was opened by Hon Dana Porter, Minister of Education on October 17th 1950.

## S.S. No. 4

The first meeting for S S No 4 comprising the Rockwood district was held on Tuesday January 12th 1847 "At a school meeting of Landholders and Householders, met according to the 20th Chapter of the 9th of Vic., Sections 19 and 20 the following officers were appointed and elected Trustees for one year John Harris two years Alexander Burns three years, James Black"

It is well to note that each of these pioneer Trustees was a leader in his particular denomination John Harris was born in Ireland (tradition says that the Harris family came to Ireland from England with Cromwell) He was a sailor captain of a merchantman taken prisoner by the French detained for two years and released after the battle of Waterloo He settled in Eramosa when 32 years of age and erected a log shanty on the site later

occupied by the Presbyterian Manse. He built a frame building on the lot opposite to be used as a place of worship for friends and set apart two acres for a cemetery. After coming to Canada he taught school for some years and while doing settlement duties served provision twenty miles on his back. He died in 1857 by being accidentally thrown from a cutter. An idea of his usefulness and of the respect he had earned may be gathered from the following extract from the minutes of the annual school meeting. The following resolution was submitted and passed with much feeling. In view of the dispensation of Providence which has deprived us of the services of our late lamented friend John Harris we desire to record our sense of the faithfulness and efficiency of his services regarding his removal as a public loss and deeply sympathizing with his bereaved family.

Alex Burns who was elected for two years at the first meeting was born in Scotland in 1807. His father Thomas Burns a weaver came to Canada in 1820 and settled in Esquesing acquiring 700 acres there and 500 in Eramosa. Alex Burns when nineteen years of age settled on Lot 3 Concession 6 now owned by the Patterson family. He was one of the promoters of the Presbyterian Church in Rockwood as was his brother John in Acton. His son John was for many years Session Clerk at Rockwood and secretary treasurer for S.S. No. 8.

James Black was born in Scotland in 1798. He taught school at Milton then known at Martin's Mills. At 22 years of age he settled on Lot 7 Concession 7 part of this lot is now owned by William R. Black a great grandson. Mr. Black carried flour on his back 35 miles from Dundas as there was not a store in Eramosa. The first mill near was built at Norval the next at Acton later a mill and post office were established at Guelph. Mr. Black was a Disciple minister one of the earliest in Canada.

From 1847 to 1858 the eight trustees were all from the Old Land and mostly prominent in church and municipal affairs. In addition to those already mentioned they were Robert Farries Alexander H. Robert Dunbar William and Archibald McNabb. Two sons of Robert Farrie became doctors of medicine and one a D.D. two daughters became ministers wives. Alex Hill was an uncle of J. J. Hill of railway fame who was educated at this school and at Rockwood Academy. Robert Dunbar was born in Ireland his family having been driven there from Scotland by the Stuart persecutions. He was also an uncle of J. J. Hill and the grandfather of Charles L. Dunbar K.C. of Guelph who died in 1950 and whose son Angus carries on in legal affairs and has been prominent for many years on the Guelph Board of Education. Charles L. Dunbar was a successful lawyer and had a kind heart beneath a somewhat gruff exterior. I recall a visit to his office just before proceeding overseas in World War I. Tell your wife said he that if she has any legal troubles while you are away this office will be glad to give them attention. He continued I am too old to go and Angus is too young but this is a free lawyer's office to soldiers and their dependents while the war lasts."

William McNabb born in Scotland in 1809 came to Canada with his mother and brother Archibald in 1833. William bought Lot 4 Concession 6. and Archie bought Lot 2. The former's farm is now occupied by his great grandson Charles. Both William and Archie Senior were among the pro-

mbers of the Presbyterian Church in Rockwood A son of W am Charles and a grandson Archie have each served as Reeve of Eramosa The first two Canadian born trustees of the section were sons of two of the original trustees Norris Black in 858 and John Richard Harris in 1870 The first teacher was John Robertson and the first purchase of wood by tender was six cords from Barnard Shultis at 4s 4½d per cord Other entries at this time are broom 1 3d postage 1d tin cup 6d blackboard 2s boarding teacher one week 6s 3d

In 1849 W am Wetherald was engaged as teacher remaining at the close of 1850 In 853 Mr Wetherald opened a school later known as Rockwood Academy which became famous and attracted pupils from different parts of the Province The teacher's salary in 85 was fixed at £50 0 0 per annum previous to that year he had received an indefinite amount but now the section was taxed an amount sufficient for a fixed salary At the annual meeting in 852 with Squire Henry Strange as chairman it was decided to adopt the Free School system but all boarders over the age of 21 to pay 1s 6d per month Robert Palmer was the man at the annual meeting in 1854 when a poll was demanded to decide whether the school should operate as a Free School or on the Rate System The vote resulted Rate Bill—18 Free School—7 and again the teacher's salary depended upon the number of scholars at so much per head The following year a teacher was engaged at £45 0 0 per annum Trustee meeting March 3rd 1857 Agreed to borrow £80 0 from W am McNabb to pay expenses for the school as the warrant for the County Assessment had not been sent Agreed to let Robert Dunbar go to Toronto to purchase things suitable and useful from the Chief Superintendent December 2nd 85? Agreed to pay the teacher £ 0 0 per annum for 1858 July 858 Assessed the section for $160 00 Note the change from sterling to dollars January Dec ember 9th 1859 Sold the old stove at $3 00 on two months credit 86? Assistant teacher lady engaged at $ 0 00 per month Annual Meeting January 11th 1865 Election of Trustees Robert Dunbar 50 W am Craig 45 Sparse meeting February 13th 869 To consider the division of the School Section Moved by Alexander M ntosh seconded by John Richard Harris that the section be not divided Carried overwhelmingly

In 1871 the section was divided but at the three trustees Robt Dunbar William Farrish and John R Harris a resided within the new boundaries little re-arrangement was necessary but the number was changed from 4 to 8 The Section was again divided in 1873 the annual meeting agreeing with the recommendation of council that the lower part of Eramosa be divided into three sections as follows No 8 to have 7 concessions on the East No to have 2 concessions on the West and No 9 Rockwood to have two concessions in the centre each section to be eight miles length S S No 8 now contains nine pupils 1932 The trustees in 873 were David Shultis William McNabb and John Richard Harris M Harris was retiring trustee and resided in the new section S S No 9 The remaining trustees held a meeting at William McNabb's corner Lot 5 Concession 6 John Black was elected trustee Moved by David Clark seconded by Paul Cripps that the new school site be on the corner or thereabouts Lost Moved by John Shultis seconded by George Dunbar that the site be on the main road in the centre of the section, sixty rods or thereabouts from the corner Carried by a

majority of s x At the Annual Meeting on December 31st 1879 John Burns chairman read a c rcular from the M nister of Educat on call ng attention to the des rabil ty of adopt ng the Townsh p Board system A motion to continue the present system carried unan mously The matte was carefully considered for 66 years and S S No 8 became part of The Eramosa Townsh p School Area at Chr stmas 1945

At the annual meet ng n 188 it was dec ded to b ild a stable and at a special meet ng on Ap 9th to choose a s te a very warm d scuss on ensued Moved by D Shult s seconded by J Shult s that the stable be at the back of the yard Lost Moved by Hugh Black seconded by A T Day that the stable be at the front at the south corner Lost Moved by John McNabb seconded by Hugh Black that the mot on to bu ld a stable be rescind ed at the annual meet ng be rescinded—Carried A mot on was then passed that the teacher be not allowed to keep fowls of any k nd After this d version the meeting aga n turned its attent on to the stable quest on Moved by A T Day seconded by Alex Burns that a stable be bu lt twelve feet from the south west fence Lost Moved by John Black seconded by John McNabb that it be built directly n the corner Carried 2 to 1

In 1883 the trustees authorized an expend ture of $2 00 for oranges and candies for school ch ldren at exam nat ons and n 1889 n accordance with the Inspector s demand dec ded to prov de new seats and desks in the schoo At the annua meet ng 1892 t was moved by Hugh Black seconded by John W Burns and carried by a stand ng vote that the sym pathy of th s meet ng be tendered to the w dow and family n the decease of the late W l am McNabb Sr as one who has always taken an act ve part in quest ons relat ng to the welfare of the sch ol and n all nterests for the common good In 1896 the teachers s ary was $400 00 and at a meet ng n September the trustees cons dered that the t me had come when the sa ary paid teachers should be reduced cons der ng the amount of hol days and the cont nued depress on and low pr ces for what the farmer has to sell They accord ng y adv sed n The Guelph Mercury and secured a teacher for $300 00 No wonder the c d t mers refuse to get exc ted about the present 93 21 depress on apparently they have come through s m lar exper ences w th fly ng colours In 1898 the sa ary was down to $260 00 per annum the teacher to l ght f res and do sweep ng and dust ng From that t me to about 1921 there was a gradua se to $1000 00 per annum back to $700 00 n the th rt es and up to $2000 00 n 950

It s nterest ng to note a few family threads through the records of Sections 4 8 and 9 Most not cea ble are those of Harr s Black and Mc Nabb At the annua meet ng of S S No 9 held on De ember 30th 1931 a grandson of the p oneer John Harr s was re elected trustee and the name has been prom nent n church and school affa rs th oughout the nterven ng years. The records of No 8 for 85 years seldom fa l to ment on a member of the Black family as trustee or tak ng some act ve part No less than eight members of the McNabb family have featured n the affa rs of No 8 a grandson of W l am McNabb Sr J D McNabb s at present [ 932] one of the trustees w th Messrs B N Nelson and J H Wardlaw The trustees for No 9 are C H Harris G W Peel and S S Royce [1932]. S S No 8 has dwindled n attendence to an average of 3 while its lusty offspring.

S. S. No. 9 has expanded into a school of five teachers and a roll of 170. Even in recent years an occasional tense moment has developed at school meetings. At a special meeting of ratepayers at No 8 in 1926, the writer was chairman and was confronted with three nominations for trustee but no seconders. After an hour's deadlock, a seconder for one nomination was found and a trustee elected.

At a special meeting of the ratepayers of S. S No. 9 held in 1930 to consider enlarging the school, with the late J. J. Aldous as chairman and the writer as secretary a motion to defer action was only defeated on a count of 31 to 29. As a worthy objective and a sound principle for some of the younger men who may read these rusty extracts and who undoubtedly wish to succeed in life, may I quote the declaration which was signed and nobly adhered to by the trustees of S. S. No 8 from 1847 to 1932.—"I will truly and faithfully to the best of my ability, discharge the duties of the office to which I have been elected"

## ERAMOSA TOWNSHIP SCHOOL AREA

Erected in 1945 to operate in 1946

1946 to 1950 Trustees — E. H. McCannell, Gordon F. Swanston, Hugh Adsett, Thos. W. Saunders, Wm. H Hindley.

1951—E. H. McCannell, Hugh Adsett, William H Hindley, Thos W. Saunders A. O. Walberg.

1952—Thos W. Saunders A. O. Walberg, Cameron Lush, Cliff. McDougall, Ralph G. Comfort.

1953—Cameron Lush Cliff. McDougall, Ralph G. Comfort, Duncan E. McPhedran, Alex. Kingsbury.

## THE LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE

**No. 8, Eramosa, January, 1948. Enrolment, 20.**

Julia: Say, Bess do you know that the wife of the new Warden of the County of Wellington was Irene Black? She was born in this Section and went to this school.

Bess: Yes. So did the wife of last years Warden I've in this Section and attended our school, she was Ethel Johnston.

Tom: That's nothing to marry a Warden· Henry Hosking went to this school and he is an alderman himself in Guelph Besides, we have the Polish Major-General Wolliskowski farming in this section.

Jimmy· I remember Sims McLean living in this section and my dad says that he was Warden in 1935 and I heard Jim Hunter say this morning that Fred Day was bargaining for the Teacher's Council, with the Hamilton Board of Education.

Julia: I know that James Black was Reeve of Eramosa and lived here all his life.

Tom· So did Charlie and Archie McNabb, and they were both Reeves of Eramosa.

Bess: The school books says that William Wetherald taught in our section before he founded The Rockwood Academy

Jimmy: I read that James J. Hi , who bu'lt railways in the States, was born in this sect on and went to school here.

Tom: That s a long time ago but th's must be a good school, 'cause Dr. Fred Hosking and Rev Wil iam Graham belonged here too, and there was D. H Shultis, who started the turnip export bus'ness and Dr. Shultis 'n Hamilton—besides Dr. Robert Farries, Dr Adam Farries and Rev. Frank Farries Rev George O. Black and Rev. Ed Black.

Bess: They say the Dunbars of Guelph, the lawyer family, went from here too. I guess they must get good teachers anyway, 'cause Dewey Soper went to school here and he explores the Arctic.

Teacher (aside): I wonder; I wonder what I can do with these twenty pupils.

## S. S. NO. 8, ERAMOSA

**(Photo taken about 1920)**

**Back Row, Left to Right:**

Wilbur Patterson Farmer, R.R. No. 4 Rockwood.
Norton Nelson Carpenter, Georgetown, Ont
Robert Hill, United States, relative of J J Hill Railway Magnate
Capt. Henry A Hosking, (B A.Sc.) Guelph, M.P. for Wellington S.
Miss Mamie Masales deceased, Teacher Disciple Church worker, mentioned in Reuben Butchart's book The Disciples of Christ in Canada since 1930."
Marion McNabb, (Mrs E. J Weatherston, Guelph) Teacher Purchasing Agent for G B. Ryan & Co., Guelph. Later Assistant principal, Guelph Board of Education
Ethylene Johnston (Mrs D. D Gray, Rockwood).
Margaret McNabb, Reg. N (Mrs. A. H McPhedran, R.R. No. 4 Rockwood)
Margaret Airdrie
Sadie Cripps deceased
Loretta Moore, (Mrs. Norman Vert), Northern Ontario.
Jessie Airdrie deceased.

**Second Row:**

George Ingles, Farmer, R. R. No. 4 Rockwood
Edgar Johnston Farmer R.R No. 4 Rockwood.
Mildred Airdrie.
Marion E. Day Reg N (Mrs. M G Greer Hamilton, Ont)
William Ingles, Insurance Guelph Ont
Margaret Ingles (Mrs Gordon Nelson, Toronto).
Mary Black Reg N. Kitchener Ont
Edna Cripps
Helen E. Bayne, Teacher School No. 8 Eramosa.

**Front Row:**

John Black Guelph Ont
Brandon Crewson, Western Canada
Harvey Bayne Farmer, R R No. 4, Rockwood
Fred Day, M. A. Head Maths. Deprnt.· Centra High School Com., Hamilton.
Russell Patterson Farmer, R.R No. 4 Rockwood.
Edward Maude, Farmer, R R. No. 4, Rockwood.
Gordon Nelson, Toronto, Ont
George F. Day Postmaster, Rockwood
Henry Cripps, Acton, Ont.

No 8 School Group

The following information about the Township of Eramosa, is reproduced from a Map printed and published at The Advertiser Office Guelph, Ont., in the year 1850 Price 2s 6d.

This is one of the oldest settled townships in the County of Waterloo, being surveyed nearly 30 years and a few inhabitants having come in immediately afterwards. At that time land was of so little value in Canada, and this Township was considered to be at such a distance from Markets, that free grants of land appear to have been made to all who could prove their capability of cultivating the same Indeed, some years afterwards, it was only required that the fees of the Land Office should be paid to obtain a grant of 200 acres

The Southern part was slowly settled, the land being, in many parts, stony, and the population of the Province small and scattered But about 25 years since, a number of settlers arrived in Canada from Susquehanna County in the State of Pennsylvania, to which place they had immigrated a few years previously from England and Scotland and where anything but prosperity attended them On their first settlement in this township there was neither mill post office or store within 25 miles and many of the old inhabitants have their tales to tell of the care, anxiety and toil which they underwent during the first years of their residence in the bush The town and Township of Guelph setting soon after their arrival contributed materially to the prosperity of both Eramosa and Waterloo, by furnishing a ready market at good prices, for all the surplus produce of these townships, which the inhabitants well knew how to turn to the best account

The fine clearings, extensive buildings and superior stone dwellings, of many of the farmers on the first and second concessions of Eramosa are particularly attractive The following is the Census of the Township in the years 1842 and 1848, and presents conclusive, but not full evidence of the progress made by its thrifty inhabitants, in the space of six years:

| | 1848 | 1842 |
|---|---|---|
| Houses | 332 | |
| Population | 1970 | 1269 |
| Schools | 5 | 6 |
| Inns | 4 | |
| Merchant's Shops | 2 | |
| Church of England | 375 | 151 |
| Church of Rome | 297 | 106 |
| Church of Scotland | 134 | 68 |
| Free Church | 85 | |
| Other Presb. | 317 | 96 |
| Wesleyans | 101 | 51 |
| Episc. Methodist | 135 | 68 |
| Other Methodist | 56 | 2 |
| Baptists | 220 | 7 |
| Lutherans | 1 | 11 |
| Congregationalists | 150 | 16 |
| Quakers | 25 | 19 |
| Other Denomination | 50 | 83 |
| No Creed | 6 | |
| Natives of England | 302 | 178 |

| | 1848 | 1842 |
|---|---|---|
| Natives of Scotland | 217 | 97 |
| Natives of Ireland | 378 | 196 |
| British Origin | 999 | 516 |
| United States | 57 | 50 |
| Other Countries | 8 | 2 |
| Births in one year, Males 43, Females 27 | | |
| Marriages 15 | | |
| Deaths, Males 14, Females 10 | | |
| Lunatics | 3 | |
| Farm Servants, male | 46 | 5 |
| Farm Servants, female | 28 | 4 |
| Domestic Servants, male | 1 | 1 |
| Children attending school, Male 217, Female 167 | | |
| Males under 5 years | 223 | 123 |
| Females under 5 years | 217 | 108 |
| Males above 5 and under 14 | 258 | 134 |
| Females above 5 and under 14 | 230 | 122 |
| Males and Females above 14 Males 520; Females 474 | 994 | 484 |
| Children between 5 and 15 | 550 | |
| Acres of land occupied | 32146 | 24445 |
| Under tillage | 8645 | 5898 |
| Under pasture | 1995 | |
| Wild land | 21506 | |
| Unfit for cultivation | 2450 | |
| Wheat produced, bushels | 59701 | 9297 |
| Barley produced, bushels | 3792 | 8847 |
| Oats produced, bushels | 35971 | 22973 |
| Corn produced, bushels | 55 | 100 |
| Buckwheat, bushels | 277 | |
| Potatoes, bushels | 12644 | 17708 |
| Peas, bushels | | 49241 |
| Flax, lbs. | 1901 | |
| Maple Sugar, lbs | 31334 | 31252 |
| Wool, lbs | 7784 | 2702 |
| Fulled Cloth, yards | 1496 | 555 |
| Linen or Cotton, yards | | 1330 |
| Flannel, yards | 4599 | 1229 |
| Cheese, lbs. | 4480 | |
| Butter, lbs. | 11408 | |
| Meat Cattle | 2496 | 1520 |
| Horses | 413 | 436 |
| Sheep | 2461 | 2370 |
| Hogs | 1993 | 1424 |

Grist Mills, 2. Run of Stones, 4. Barrels of Flour, 600. Saw Mills, 5. Lumber, 100 ft board measure, 440,000 Carding Mill, 1. Wool manufactured, lbs. 10000 Tanneries, 1. Hides manufactured, 60. Potasheries, 1. Cwts. 42. Woolen Manufacturies, 1. Yards 5200. 263 Farmers, 26 Labourers, 2 Tailors, 1 Woolfactor, 4 Shoemakers, 2 Waggonmakers, 3 School Teachers, 2 Surveyors, 2 Blacksmiths, 4 Innkeepers, 2 Storekeepers, 4 Carpenters, 1 Mason, 5 Weavers, 1 Engineer, 2 Millers, 1 Distiller.

Eramosa is bounded on the North-East by the Township of Erin; on the opposite sides by the Townships of Nichol and Guelph, on the North-West by Garafraxa, and on the South-East by Nassagaweya. The Township is small, being 12 miles long, and only about 6 miles broad the South-Eastern portion being stony in many places, whilst the Northern part is well adapted for cultivation Eramosa is well watered, having two branches of the Speed running across the whole township, while various small rivulets supply the remaining parts, and feed the main streams The Speed, proper, is not used for any manufactories of importance, but the Southern branch, sometimes called the Grand River, is made available for many useful purposes. At Rockwood, Henry Strange, esquire, has a Saw Mill, carding machine, and cloth factory in full operation, while a grist mill is in course of erection On another stream, within a short distance of the above, is the grist mill of Mr. Squires, which was at one time a turning and last factory A little nearer to Guelph, Mr J D. Murphy has an ashery, carding machine, fulling mill and saw mill, and on the adjoining lot, is the tannery of Mr McDonald, which was commenced only last year On a lower branch of the same stream, are the Eden Mills, owned and occupied by A. L. Argo, Esq., comprising a flour mill and saw mill. The same gentleman has also a store contiguous.

Eramosa presents a fine field for the geologist and the lover of nature. The course of the Southern stream is marked by rugged rocks, precipices and water falls—small, it is true, but beautiful, especially in so plain a country. Near Rockwood and also near the saw mill of Mr Everts, are interesting rocks, well worth a visit from the curious or scientific. In preparing for the foundation of Mr. Strange's flour mill, a quantity of pure lead ore was found, but whether efforts have been made to find out its value, we cannot say.

## ELECTORAL AND POLLING SUB-DIVISIONS

At the inaugural meeting of the Council for the Township of Eramosa in 1936, it was stated that the council intended to re-arrange the polling sub-divisions and create a new sub-division at Eden Mills. This brought to light some interesting history of the development of electoral machinery and sub-divisions in the township. From the time the first Township Council meeting in January, 1850 to January 1876 all municipal elections were held at or near the Centre Inn. This meant a drive of ten miles for voters from the north corner of the township or nine miles from the other corners. In 1869 the council established three sub-divisions for parliamentary purposes. These were: Rockwood, comprising Lots 1 to 8 across the township, No. 2 Centre Inn, comprising Lots 9 to 19, No. 3, Oustic, taking the remaining lots 20 to 32. Although these sub-divisions were established in 1869 for parliamentary purposes, the municipal elections were conducted under the old system of one polling place at The Centre Inn until 1875.

At the October meeting in that year, the council decided that the old system would remain in force for the election of 1876, as the provision for two new sub-divisions would be too expensive, but apparently the idea of convenience was gaining ground, for at the December meeting, the Reeve stated that the council were obliged by Provincial authorities to provide convenient polling places for municipal elections, and the election for 1876 was held under the new system. For the election of 1877, Everton claimed a polling place, taking in territory as far south as Crewson's Corners and relieving the heavy list at Rockwood. This plan of four sub-divisions continued until 1886, when a re-arrangement provided for five sub-divisions, establishing a new polling place at Speedside. In 1901, the polling place at The Centre Inn was moved westward to No. 2 School and in the following year it was established further west at The Four Corners. With minor adjustments, the sub-divisions and polling places of 1902 have continued to the present (1936) but during recent years, additions to the Voters' Lists of the names of the wives of ratepayers and of farmers' sons and daughters, have swelled the lists to such an extent that the list at Rockwood now amounts to nearly 500, whereas the legal limit is 300. It appears possible that Eden Mills, over a century old, will get its first polling sub-division as a result of the necessary readjustment.

(Bylaw No. 5 for 1936, still in force in 1950, provided for polling places as follows: No. 1, Eden Mills, No. 2, Four Corners, No. 3, Speedside, No. 4, Oustic, No. 5, Everton, No. 6, Rockwood East, No. 7, Rockwood West.)

GUELPH.
Mag. 45° W. Var. 8½°
I.
II.
III.
IV
V
VI.
VII.
KEY TO 1850 MAP
a—School House, b Place of Worship, c—Saw Mill, d Carding Mill,
e—Store, f—Blacksmith Shop, g—Tavern, h Tannery i Grist Mill, j—Post Office.

GARAFRAXA

Mag N 38° E 47' ch 02 l Var 27' W

NICHOL.

ERIN.

967 chains.

Var. 32'

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 32 | Jonathan Lister W Harley | A. Cornue John Rea John Rea | D Rea | | | Wm Reed | Walter Reed | | John Rgn | | 32 |
| 31 | J Griffith | A Griffith | | | | | | | | | 31 |
| 30 | C. Anderson | A. Grif- fith | W Bolls jr | John Wishart John Simpson | | | | | D Rea R. Rea | | 30 |
| 29 | | J S. Armstrong | | Aug. Freuro | Andrew Freuro | A. Sims | | | | | 29 |
| 28 | Wm. Scott 80 | Wm Wood | J Wood sen. | Jas. Armstrong | | | | W Hunter | Jos. Potter | | 28 |
| 27 | John Wood | R. Robinson | | S. Collis | | Jas. Lush | E. Mc Carty | John Heffernan | S. Grady | | 27 |
| 26 | E. McDonald | W S. Armstrong | | | | | | | | | 26 |
| 25 | James Loghrin | Wm Loghrin | Jas Peters | John Sloan | | | Jonathan Oakes | Thos. Cox. | J. Pat- terson | E.Skerrett | 25 |
| 24 | Alexander McGladrey | Jas Loghrin | | | | | Thos Clarke | Wm. Cox | R. Bay- ley | G Bay- ley | 24 |
| 23 | Thomas Armstrong | James Peters | J W Arm- strong | W Matrie | | | | D. Creighton | Jos. Foster | | 23 |
| 22 | W Armstrong | do J W A. | John Peters | John Blakley | Blakley | W Lush | P O Boyles | W Armstr'g | | | 22 |
| 21 | Jas Wood | John Kennedy | S. O Brien | Geo Nelson | Wm Lush | D D. | T G. Boyles | E.Casey | | T Blanchfield | 21 |
| 20 | A. Smith | J. Smith | J. Johnson | Daniel Day | David Day | David Day | | R. Thom- son | M. White- head. | W Blanchfield | 20 |
| 19 | G. Arm- strong | Thos. Tolton. | J A A | G S Arm- strong | J Bal- lantine | J Mc Glashan | Wilson | Mat. Barber | R. Cop- lan. | Jas. Mitchell | 19 |
| 18 | C Jones | Mrs Mc Cormick | P Glebe J A Armstrong | Ann Talbot | John Maddock | J Mc Ave | Geo Scott | W Glover | J. Tobin | W Fullerton | 18 |
| 17 | John Mrs Mc Newman | Cormick | H Scott W Scott | P Mc Queen | Geo Scott | John Dickieson | | A. Clarke | S. Tobin | M. Justin | 17 |
| 16 | Geo Dingahan | Mrs Mc Cormick Armst'g | | W | H. | J Edwards H Edwards | J D. A Cripps | Thos Forsythe A. Kerr. | A. Abbott | W. Mc Geugan Dougall | 16 |
| | | Jos. | | | | | | | S | R Molton | |

## CROWN DEED

### Province of Upper Canada

WILLIAM the FOURTH by the Grace of GOD of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland KING Defender of the Faith To all whom these Presents shall come GREETING Know Ye That We of our special Grace certain Knowledge and mere Motion have given and GRANTED, and by these Present do give and Grant unto David Farrer of the Township of Markham in the County of York in the Home District Yeoman his heirs and assigns for ever ALL that parcel or tract of LAND situate in the Township of Eramosa in the County of Halton in the District of Gore in our said Province containing by admeasurement One Hundred Acres, be the same more or less being composed of the West half of Lot Number three in the seventh Concession of the said Township of Eramosa Together with all the Woods and Waters thereon lying and being within the reservations limitations and conditions hereinafter expressed TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said parcel or tract of land hereby given and granted to him the said David Farrer his heirs and assigns for ever saving nevertheless to US our Heirs and Successors all Mines of Gold and Silver that shall or may hereafter be found on any part of the said parcel or tract of Land hereby given and granted as aforesaid and saving and reserving to US our Heirs and Successors all White Pine Trees that shall or may now or hereafter grow or be growing on any part of the said parcel or tract of Land hereby granted as aforesaid PROVIDED ALWAYS that no part of the parcel or tract of Land hereby given and granted to the said David Farrer and his heirs be within any reservation heretofore made and marked for US our Heirs and Successors by the Surveyor General of Woods or his lawful Deputy in which case this our grant for such part of the Land hereby given and granted to the said David Farrer and his heirs for ever as aforesaid and which shall upon a survey thereof being made, be found within any such reservation shall be null and void and of none effect any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding

AND WHEREAS by an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain passed in the thirty-first year of the reign of His late Majesty King George the Third entitled "An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the Fourteenth year of His Majesty's Reign entitled An Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec in North America and to make further provision for the Government of the said Province it is declared that no grant of Lands thereafter made should be valid or effectual unless the same should contain a specification of the Lands to be allotted and appropriated solely to the maintenance of a Protestant Clergy within the said Province in respect of the Lands to be thereby granted"

NOW KNOW YE that we have caused an allotment or appropriation of fourteen acres and five sevenths to be made in Lot Number twenty in the sixth Concession of the said Township of Eramosa

GIVEN under the Great Seal of our said Province of Upper Canada WITNESS our trusty and well-beloved Sir Francis Bond Head K C B, Etc, Etc, Etc, Etc Lieutenant Governor of Our said province, this twenty-first

day of April in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and thirty-seven and in the seventh year of our reign.

By Command of His Excellency in Council. "F B. Head" "Seal"

Upper Canada, 18th, May, 1819, Administration of Sir P. Maitland, "Patent fee and survey paid, Settlement duties performed."

Reverse.

GRANT; David Farrier, 100 acres in Eramosa, District of Gore Recorded 22 April 1837, Book C.H., folio 375 D. Cameron, Registrar.

## CLERGY RESERVE DEED

### Province of Canada

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, QUEEN, Defender of the Faith—To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come —GREETING.

WHEREAS the Lands hereinafter described and granted are part of the Lands which have been from time to time, according to the provisions of Law in that behalf, allotted and appropriated, and are commonly known as CLERGY RESERVES,

AND WHEREAS, by an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the eighth year of the late King George the Fourth, intituled "An Act to authorize the sale of a part of the Clergy Reserves in the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada" and by another Act of the said Parliament, passed in the Third and Fourth years of Our Reign, intituled, "An Act to provide for the sale of the Clergy Reserves in the Province of Canada, and for the distribution of the proceeds thereof", power and authority is given to the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Person Administering the Government respectively, as well of the said Province of Upper Canada as of the said Province of Canada, with the advice of the Executive Council, to sell, grant, alienate and convey, all or any of the said Clergy Reserves

AND WHEREAS, in the pursuance of the power and authority given in and by the said Acts, or by any one or other of them, a contract hath been duly entered into for the sale and conveyance of the lands, tenements and hereditaments hereinafter mentioned, being part of the said Clergy Reserves, unto ROBERT ROBINSON, of the Township of Eramosa, in the County of Wellington, Yeoman, his heirs and assigns, at and for the price of ONE HUNDRED and SIXTY POUNDS.

NOW KNOW YE, that in consideration of the said sum of One Hundred and Sixty Pounds—to Our Commissioner appointed by Us to super-

ntend the sale of the sa d Clergy Reserves, to and for Our use well and truly paid, WE have granted, sold, alienated and conveyed, and by these presents do grant, sell, alien and convey, unto the sa d Robert Robinson, his he rs and assigns, ALL that Parcel or Tract of Land, situate .n the Township of Eramosa, in the County of Wellington of Our said Province, conta ning by admeasurement two hundred acres—be the same more or less, being the C ergy Reserve, Lot Number Twenty-seven in the Second Concession of the aforesaid Township of Eramosa TOGETHER with all the Woods and Waters thereon y ng and be ng To have and to hold the sa.d Parcel or Tract of Land hereby granted to h m the said Robert Robinson—h s heirs and ass gns for ever, SAVING NEVERTHELESS, unto Us, Our Heirs and Successors, all mines of Go d and Silver, that sha l or may hereafter be found on any part of the sa d Parce or Tract of Land hereby given and granted as aforesa.d

GIVEN under the Great Seal of Our Province of Canada WITNESS Our Right Trusty and R ght Well-beloved Cousin, JAMES, EARL of ELGIN AND KINCARDINE, Kn ght of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, Governor-General of British North America, and Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over Our Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Island of Prince Edward and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c , &c., At Quebec this Eleventh day of June in the year of Our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two—and in the fifteenth year of Our Reign

By Command of H.s Excellency in Council, A. W. Morin,

John Rolph, Commissioner of Crown Lands. Ref. No. 12061. Des. No. 43012 H. I. I.

SEAL —V ctor a Britanniarem Regina Etd. Sigillum Provinciae Canadae. Elgin & Kincard ne

Reverse.

CLERGY SALE.

Grant to Robert Robinson; 200 acres, Township of Eramosa, County of Wellington Recorded 10th July, 1852 Lib. D A, Fol 159; Jno. Amiot, Deputy Reg strar C L Dept Frederic Roche.

Through the k ndness of Mr Wil iam Robinson, R R No 5, Rockwood, who is retir ng to Fergus next month, we have had the opportunity to copy the above Clergy Reserve deed to Lot 27, Concession 2. Mr. Clare Robinson, who is now residing on and operating the northwesterly half of the lot, s of the fifth generation to farm this land.

Apparently Robert Robinson secured his Crown Deed in 1852, but he was listed as occup er earlier than that A map of Eramosa dated 1850 shows Robert Robinson located on Lot 27, Concession 2, the first names mentioned as members of "F rst Presbyterian Church, Eramosa" (Barrie Hill) on the formation of the congregation in 1838, are Robert and Elizabeth Robinson. Apparently Robert Robinson was living on this lot in 1850

and probably before 1838, for Lot 27 is only some 2¼ miles from Barrie Hill Church. We may assume that he lived on this lot under one of three conditions. 1st, as a squatter 2nd, as a tenant of the Crown, or 3rd, under an Agreement for Sale with the grant obtainable when fully paid for.

It is interesting to note that whereas free grants were obtainable from the Crown in the 1820's and 1830's, land values had so increased by 1852 that the Crown received 160.0 0 Pounds or approximately $800.00 from Robert Robinson for this lot It is interesting, too, to note that while the act to "authorise the sale of Part of the Clergy Reserves" was passed in the reign of George 4th, the act to "provide for the sale of the Clergy Reserves was passed in the 3rd and 4th years of the reign of Queen Victoria. The latter act, coming so soon after the Mackenzie rebellion, seems to indicate that the authorities in England had at last recognised the feeling and temper of the settlers regarding Clergy Reserves. There appears to be a substantial difference between the two Acts; that of George 4th merely "authorises" the sale of "part" of the Clergy Reserves, while that of Victoria "provides for the sale of the Clergy Reserves", presumably all of them

There are several cases in Eramosa in 1950 where members of the fourth generation are operating the farms of their great-grandfathers and children of the fifth generation are residing thereon, but it appears that the case of Mr. Clare Robinson of the fifth generation operating Lot 27 and his daughters, Linda and Velda, of the sixth generation living there, is unique in Eramosa.

# Church History

Since history was first recorded church records with their registers of births, marriages and deaths and current comment have been a fruitful asset in endeavours to picture bygone days Eramosa is no exception to the rule congregations of worshipping settlers gathered in all parts of the township and the meetings and actions were duly recorded The records cover a survey of 172 years in a manner that confirms and completes municipal and school accounts and lends color to many other items of family history and development Many of the church records were written by ministers session clerks or persons holding similar offices Uniformly the writers stress the spirituality of the particular sect or section that came under their notice and comment lavishly on the godly Christian characters of the members Reading between the lines and in a collective study one cannot escape recognition of a lamentable element of bigotry, narrowness pride and exclusiveness We find the Presbyterians at Berrie Hill refusing to hear James Black because of his leaning toward immersion, the Methodists dropping members because they took to dancing "took to drinking joined the Campbellites (Disciples) the congregation at Speedside would not subscribe to a Congregational Union and would have none but members in the choir the Presbyterians at Rockwood "hope that our people will not become experience telling people (Methodist)" the Disciples at Everton regretting that some who should belong had gone over to the Baptists We have not improved much in this respect, it is within memory that the Presbyterians at Rockwood refused to accept the Methodist Church as a gift from the Unionists Last week the Globe and Mail reported that at a meeting of a Toronto Presbytery a United Church leader had stated that if the United Church did not get established in the new suburban areas the Shields party the Four Square Gospel, the fundamentalists or some other sect would get in (Good luck to them) It is probably true that one divorce gets more publicity than a hundred happy marriages and equally true that the disagreeable aptitudes and disciplinary actions of Eramosa congregations receive more prominence than they deserve

There are delightful instances of Christian co-operation one (just outside the township but concerning some Eramosa members) was the action of Melville United Church Fergus in providing worshipping accommodation for St James Anglican while a new church was being built Rockwood Presbyterian regularly provides accommodation for St Johns Anglican for mid week affairs Crewsons Corners Methodist was used by Rev Beecher Parkhouse white minister at Everton Disciple Church for the funeral service of a Disciple member Rev W J Taylor United Church minister attended a Catholic Mass at the funeral of the late Geo Oakes at Rockwood One of the most impressive services I can recall was in Crewsons Corners Methodist Church over the body of John Burlingham, the Quaker mentioned elsewhere in this work conducted in perfect simplicity and harmony by Rev (Major, E Bellinger Anglican and Captain Poulton of the Salvation Army John Burlingham had been a minister of The Society of Friends in England He was present at a debate in the Town

Hall Rockwood at the time when Laurier and Borden were battling over the question of a Canadian Navy He was on the platform and announced I represent the Prince of Peace and proceeded to speak on the well known peace efforts of The Society of Friends There was something ironical yet inspiring that he should be laid away by an Anglican minister (later a Major) and a Captain of The Salvation Army

Religion has played a part in Eramosa that cannot be over-estimated there were always some who ridiculed resented it and refused to support it There are some residents in that category yet but with most of them there was some connection to childhood or youth some precepts of religion or decent living were absorbed so that although they will not accept church membership they have a certain code of honor that keeps them within the pale of recognised citizenship On Sunday morning, Rockwood would appeal to a traveler as a religious village large numbers of cars would be noticed at the United Presbyterian and Catholic churches and on the 2nd Sunday of each month quite a few at St John's Anglican Church The township as a whole is Sabbath minded there would be no chance for a Sunday sport majority in Eramosa although few if any keep the negative commandment to the letter Even those who do not attend church usually have respect enough to refrain from openly violating accepted standards An instance of respect is recalled from the time I had a few minutes to spare at Rockwood Post Office and walked across the road to visit my friend Herb Gibbons the blacksmith Herb was a Catholic and with him in the shop was a Jew from Acton collecting scrap iron The three of us were discussing religion "I work five days" said the Jew, "I no work at my iron on Sunday Saturday is my Sabbath I no offend my neighbours Is there much difference between offending neighbours and offending God?

Catholic and Protestant relations in the township are most cordial; they could hardly be otherwise for in almost every family tree a mixed marriage can be traced They occur in such famous Eramosa families as the Benhams Talbots Torrances Oakes Hansons Barrys Listers Weatherstons Kellys and Gilfillans and when all connected with those families are enumerated few residents remain Only two Catholic priests have resided in the township Rev Fr F P Kehoe and Rev Fr A Callaghan Father Cox is a frequent visitor at the Catholic farm for boys in summer All three priests made an effectual contribution to the goodwill they found existing in Catholic-Protestant relations The senior Presbyterian (now United) elder in the township in 1950 Mr George H Pearen says that the three finest Christians he has known in the township were Elder James Black Disciple John O Jolliffe Methodist, and Michael Patrick Barry, Catholic

## A SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED CHURCH, ROCKWOOD

Compiled in 1937 for the Archives Committee of the Presbytery of Guelph,
by Frank Day, Clerk of the Township of Eramosa, Chairman
Committee of Stewards, 1925 Secretary, 1937, of the
United Church, Rockwood

The Police Village of Rockwood is in the centre of the lower half of the Township of Eramosa County of Wellington the village was set apart as a Police Village in 1903 the Township was surveyed in 1819 and the earliest records of settlers date from 1821 municipal government from 1837 Church history dates from 1830 so that in order to get a correct view of the history of the church in Rockwood it is necessary to look at the matter from a township standpoint in the earlier days

The Township of Eramosa from the earliest times, seems to have been an attractive field for the operations of the various branches of the Presbyterian Church of the 12 churches now operating in the Township, 7 are Presbyterian according to the dictionary definition of the word, viz churches that are governed by presbyteries Eden Mills Rockwood, Stone Church, Barrie Hill and Speedside in connection with the united Church, and Rockwood and Eden Mills with the Presbyterian Church The remaining 5 churches are Rockwood and Oustic R C Rockwood Anglican Everton Disciples and Crewsons Corners Ind From 1830 to 1834 no less than 4 branches of Presbyterians endeavoured to establish themselves in the township

1 Rev Andrew Bell was born in London, Eng, ordained to the charge at Streetsville Ont, in July, 1828 in connection with The United Presbytery of Upper Canada which was an offshoot of the Associate Presbytery formed by Rev Ebenezer Erskine and his followers in 1733 after he had been deposed as a minister of the Church of Scotland Mr Bell reported to his presbytery on January 26 1831 that he had visited several families in the Northwest corner of Eramosa and preached to a large congregation, and was informed that there were 22 families of Presbyterians in that settlement and that they could give $60 or $70 annually to a minister who would preach to them every fourth Sabbath

2 In 1830 Rev Messrs Sheed Gale and McColl of the established Church of Scotland (which had recently succeeded in securing government grants for its ministers) reported to the Glasgow Colonial Society as follows Gore District Trafalgar no minister occasional services Erin, no minister Garafraxa and Nassagaweya no minister Esquesing no minister, a church the minister of this congregation will be entitled to 57 Pounds sterling from the funds appointed for the support of ministers of the Church of Scotland the people might raise about 30 Pounds and provide a manse Congregation will probably exceed 400 souls Guelph, no minister schoolhouse used as a church The minister of this congregation will be entitled to 57 Pounds as above, besides this a grant of 6 acres of land in the town was either made or promised to the congregation by Mr Galt of The Canada Land Co. One of the last acts of Sir P Maitland as Lt.-Governor of the Province was to grant Mr Galt 200 acres of land

for the Presbyterian Church in Guelph The stipend which this congregation can raise will be small for several years the settlers of Eramosa have expressed a desire to become members of this congregation and the whole might amount to 500 or 600 souls

3 In 1835 we find a denomination with a long and imposing name integrated in Guelph Puslinch and Eramosa The Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas in connection with the United Associated Synod of The Secession Church in Scotland was organised on Christmas Day 1834 in the Presbyterian Church House St Toronto The United Secession Church was formed in Scotland in 1820 by a union of Burghers Anti burghers and the Relief Synod the latter branch had been founded by Rev Thomas Gillespie who had been deposed by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1752 for refusing to ordain a minister to a congregation against its wishes when ordered to do so by the Assembly The new denomination retained connection with the mother church in Scotland but seceded from the Church of Scotland in Canada regarding it as unscriptural and inexpedient to receive aid from the state Rev Wm Proudfoot and Rev Thos Christie report for this branch of the church as follows London Upper Canada March 8 1835 Guelph for 40 miles after leaving Van Egmonds the soil seems poor and swampy there are very few settlers For 25 miles more the country is well settled chiefly by Dutch people who have noble farms These have no regular administration of the Gospel they are mostly Dunkers there are many of the Aumish among them a wild enthusiastic sect who are reported to be very deficient in all that constitutes religion Eight miles more brings us to Guelph a thriving village finely situated on the banks of the Speed one of the tributaries of the Grand River In Guelph there is an Episcopal a Catholic and a Presbyterian (Kirk) Church all very thinly attended There are a few persons who have left it to be their duty to leave the Kirk on account of indiscriminate admission to the privileges of the church and other things who would assert themselves to the utmost of their ability to support a minister of the Secession It is their opinion that if a minister were sent by our Presbytery to Guelph a good congregation would soon be raised if the Presbyterians in the lower part of Eramosa and Puslinch were placed under one minister they would be able to support him without foreign aid Both Guelph and Puslinch and Eramosa are in a very destitute condition the churches at Markham and Vaughan are in a languid state but stand on high Secessions ground

4 In May 1833 the Niagara Presbytery of the American Presbyterian Church was organised A narrative by 3 of its ministers states Hamilton and Barton (on the mountain) This church was formed on the temperance plan that is none are received or retained as members who make vend or use as a drink ardent spirits Eight have been suspended from the privileges of Christs house 4 for intemperance the state of religion is good on the mountain but not so good it is believed in the village Pelham an interesting female prayer meeting is maintained with other weekly meetings Oakville Organised in April 1833 consisting of 11 members the Sabbath School which is connected with the Methodists. consists of about 80 scholars and is in a flourishing condition Eramosa The origin of this church is as follows Two men converted at a protracted

meeting in Hamilton, went home and began at once to labour with families and their friends in the neighbourhood though they sought for ministerial help they obtained none until 20 were the hopeful subjects of grace In December 1833 Mr Sessions preached twice to this people and in February 834 organised a church of 18 members Previous to this, many not expecting any Presbyterian preaching had united with the Methodists Prayer meetings were crowded and solemn Mr Sessions divides his labours on the Sabbath between 5 congregations 2 of them in Erin in Esquesing also Mr Sessions labours occasionally in 2 neighbourhoods 6 miles apart in all his labours he meets large and waiting congregations some females walk 7 miles to hear the gospel preached

5 Another branch of the Presbyterian Church represented in Canada at this time were the Covenanters or Cameronians who withdrew from the Church of Scotland in 1743 and established the Reformed Presbyterian Church in 1811 They refused to recognise the authority of any but covenanting kings and were opposed to all kinds of secret oathbound societies and orders as ensnaring in their nature and perilous to the liberties of both church and state Their first minister in Ontario was Dr James Milligan of Vermont who organised a congregation at Ramsay in 1831 or 1832 Rev James Lachlan was sent to Ramsey by the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Scotland He also laboured in Toronto Hamilton and Guelph

For a few years after 1834 it seems difficult to find church history in the Township Perhaps the rebellion in 1837 the organisation for schools and municipal government and the building of more substantial roads, bridges homes schools and churches left little time for the pioneer to record historical facts The Mackenzie rebellion was a live issue in the Township as recorded by my predecessor as Clerk and Treasurer of 100 years ago James Peters Last Fall (1937) I stood over his grave in Johnston's Cemetery in Eramosa having the privilege of singing in a male quartette at a Memorial service in which 3 clerical members of Guelph Presbytery took part viz Rev P H Lawson of Rockwood Rev G I Stephenson of Barrie Hill and Rev G C Park of Elora Mr Peters was one of the founders of the Congregational Church at Speedside where the present Chief Justice of Canada Sir Lyman Duff spent some of his boyhood days while his father was minister

James Peters was arrested before daylight on December 13 1837, by Squire Inglis of Guelph with a glittering drawn sword and 32 men armed with rifles and bayonets Along with 6 other prominent citizens of Eramosa he was taken to Hamilton and tried for treason barely escaping with his life A staunch teetotaler he relates that immediately after his release he did take a pull at 'Old Jeroboam' but adhered to his temperance principles for the rest of his long life He was dismissed as Clerk and Treasurer when he was arrested apparently in response to public opinion in the township which at that time was strongly with the government but he was reinstated a few years later when the settlers had mentally changed their opinions on the issues I should briefly refer to Elder James Black a Disciple who came from Scotland in 1798 settled in Eramosa and in 1827 preached to the Presbyterians at Barrie Hill, and whose services were after a time discontinued, because, while entertain-

ing the greatest respect for Mr Black personally and highly appreciating his piety and labours, the great majority of the settlers were not in accord with his views on the ordinance of baptism

In 1846 the Reformed Synod of Scotland sent Rev John McLachlan as a missionary to Canada Arriving at Galt early in 1847 he visited Guelph Esquesing Hamilton and Toronto and wrote "I am sorry to say that I do not find any of our societies in so prosperous a condition as I was led to believe I find the Free Church movement has drawn away a good many of our people In these circumstances he found no conscientious objections against joining the (Free) Presbyterian Church and in connection with that body, was inducted to the charge of Boston and Acton in 1851

There seems to have been intense rivalry between the various branches of the Presbyterian Church their relations with other churches were not always harmonious as witnesseth hot spots of the Clergy Reserve controversy 1819 to 1854 The fiery Methodists sometimes came into conflict with their Presbyterian brethren In an instance where both were using the same building in one day it was agreed that the Presbyterian minister should have the morning service and the Methodist the afternoon During the morning service something was said with which the Methodist minister did not agree so in his prayer in the afternoon he said "Lord bless our Presbyterian brother and make his heart as soft as his head There are glimpses of amiable fellowship such as the American Presbyterian report in 1834 stating After the untiring efforts of the Methodist denomination and after all that is done by the Church of England, the Kirk the United Synod and the Baptists still the field is not yet taken up" They had evidently progressed along the line of toleration since Champlain wrote I have seen the minister and our cure attack each other with their fists upon the difference of religion and thus they settled their points of controversy Champlain a devout Catholic was greatly offended at the Huguenot (Presbyterian) De Caen because he assembled his Huguenot sailors at prayer and forced Catholics to join them Champlain ordered that praying and psalm singing should cease but the Huguenot crews revolted A compromise was made prayer was permitted but psalm singing was prohibited A bad bargain said Champlain, "but we made the best of it we could"

Besides the 12 churches now in use in the Township of Eramosa, at least 16 other buildings have been used as churches An Official Survey map and Atlas of 1877 shows a Catholic church at or near the cemetery on the fifth line below Oustic a Friends Meeting House at Rockwood Cemetery, on No 7 Highway Presbyterian churches at Everton and at Lot 27 Erin townline Anglican at Lot 21 5th line and at Rockwood on the corner where the monument now stands This latter building was moved across the street and is now used as a residence and hardware store by Mr A B Root, the congregation celebrating their 150th anniversary in the present St John's church in 1931 There were Disciples churches or Meeting Houses near Mr Lloyd Johnston's on the 7th line, on the 6th line above the Eramosa Road and at Four Corners Methodist churches at Osburn's Cemetery, at Rockwood and 2 at Everton, Methodist Episcopal at

Lot 26 6th line at Lot 14 Erin townline and on Herrs St at Rockwood. The latter building was formerly known as The Rockwood Temperance Hall was used by the Presbyterians at one time and is now occupied as a residence by Mr E Rennee There was a building used by the Wesleyans at Mr Wm McNabbs gate known as Dolmages The Presbyterians when first organized used No 4 schoolhouse now occupied as a residence by Miss Mary Hall

While the records of the early Presbyterians are full of stories of heroism self sacrifice unceasing labour and an abundant faith they are equalled and sometimes excelled by the energetic Methodists whose standard of service was so high that a preacher who took a wife was considered somewhat of a slacker on the assumption that he would not travel so far afield and would be less able to give undivided attention to his flock The early Methodists were somewhat disdainful of college training for ministers and particularly disliked any attempt at an affected style of preaching Rev Jacob Gruber wrote thus to one young brother who had offended in 1778 Dear ah Brotherah When ah you ah go ah to ah preach ah take ah care ah you ah don't ah say ah oh ah Yours ah Jacob ah Gruber ah At one of Mr Grubers camp meetings he had difficulty in bringing his congregation to order some of the ladies persisting in standing on the seats Said Gruber If the young lady standing on the bench knew what a great hole she has in her stocking she would certainly sit down His ruse was successful the congregation took their seats After the discourse another minister asked him if he had really seen a hole in one of the stockings No said Gruber To the question How can you say so, then? Mr Gruber replied Did you ever see a stocking without a hole?"

John English resolved to leave the church and applied to Mr Gruber for a certificate stating that he had been dissatisfied for 15 years with the Methodist Church its government bishops presiding elders and circuit preachers Mr Gruber told him At the church tomorrow we will attend to your certificate After preaching and class meeting Mr Gruber said "My brethren and sisters here is John English who has been dissatisfied for 15 years with The Methodist Church All who are opposed to his withdrawal rise up (All kept their seats Turning to John English Mr Gruber said There you're out The surprised Mr English read on his certificate "This is to certify that John English has been for 15 years a dissatisfied member of the Methodist Church and has withdrawn on the 6th day of June 1832 J Gruber Preacher in charge"

The Methodists were established in Rockwood and upper Eramosa some years earlier than the Presbyterians Following is an account of the opening of the Wesleyan Church in 1856 The foundation of this building can be seen beside the small river and No 7 Highway the building was torn down after the union in 1925 and after the fill on No 7 Highway had made it practically useless

Letter to The Christian Guardian November 8 1856 Rev and Dear Sir With much pleasure communicate the following particulars in connection with the opening of the New Wesleyan Church in Rockwood This church was opened on Sunday the 2nd inst Rev E Wood conducted the morning service the Rev R Cooney D D of Guelph the afternoon and

the Rev L Warner, Chairmen of the Distnct, in the evening. At each service there was an unusual and striking interest felt on the part of the congregation, many of whom came a considerable distance In the afternoon especially the church was crowded to excess, so much so that seats could not be provided for all So much religious animation and enjoyment were never before experienced in one day in the Village of Rockwood Many hearts have felt a thrilling interest in the delightful and hallowd exercises of the Sanctuary on that day a day it was which will be long remembered by the people here A new era in the history of Wesleyan Methodism has commenced and doubtless in the religious history of this neighbourhood With few exceptions, all appear to rejoice in Zions prosperity, they show a love for her gates and a delight in her songs Surely under these circumstances we may expect prosperity

Since the opening of the church we see much to encourage us, we see many come to the Sanctuary and listen with an attentive ear to the sound of the Gospe and to Jehovahs warning voice, who have not attended any place of public worship We are also encouraged by the pleasing prospects of having a very interesting and prosperous Sabbath School had the pleasure last Sabbath which was the first day of this School, to find 12 teachers come spontaneously and offer their services in this laudable undertaking I doubt not but here the wilderness and the solitary place shall become glad and the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose.

Allow me now sir to advert for a moment to that distingurshed liberality which characterised the people here both on the day of the opening and on the succeeding Monday The Sabbath collections were much better than were anticipated the morning was somewhat the best. The whole contribution for the day amounted to about $100 00 On Monday we had a Religious festival and although the day was dark and gloomy it was numerously attended We had the pleasure of seeing many of our friends from Guelph Eden and Acton on the occasion Early in the afternoon there was provided in the new church a very comfortable repast after which Rev L Warner proposed that Mr Brown of Acton take the chair After the opening speech Rev R Cooney D D of Guelph was called upon to address the meeting which he did the principal object of which was to produce dispositions of liberality and it failed not in producing the desired effect for in a short time we got something over $100 00 subscribed to the building fund A tea-meeting was also held in the evening which was largely attended The ladies indeed spared no trouble in providing everything necessary and in the best style Rev L. Warner addressed the meeting and produced thereby feelings of the most profound interest satisfaction and pleasure Liberality became the order of the evening the bills came out of their hiding places with the greatest cheerfulness $40 00 was given in cash and $160 00 subscribed

Taking into account all that has been realized by subscriptions, collections and the proceeds of Mondays meetings, we find it to amount to nearly $700 00 The whole expense of the church is about $1200 00 This leaves us in circumstances much more favourable and easy than was

expected and for which we are led to 'thank God and take courage' The church is very neatly finished inside and plastered outside Its size is 30x40 feet and it occupies a very fine position

Rockwood, Ont November 8 1856 Wm Norton

The first Trustees were Robert Pesmore John Cunningham Robert Dunbar and George Coram Robert Pesmore was the First Postmaster in Rockwood his son John M aged 86 still resides here his great grandson is Treasurer of the Boys' Great great grandchildren of George Coram are now members of the church Other names of members in 1858 were E' Stout Hester Horne Bell Croft Ching Cripps Logan Nelson Reedy, Scriber Oliver Bessier Dogherty, Bradley Smith Jackson Revd Boanerlie, Robinson Black McCarthy Dower McKenzie Irwin Wilson, Lester, Clarke Roberts Foster and Harrison

The Circuit was composed of Rockwood Eden Mills Everton and Dolmage's all in the Township of Eramosa and The Plains (Arkell, in Puslinch About 1860 the following classifications appear after member's names Leader Trustee Local Preacher Steward Exhorter Seeker Penitent Doubtful Sanctified Justified or Free Dropt taken up dancing Dropt, non attendance Excluded Married Excluded Worthless Dropt, joined the Campbellites Withdrawn Readmitted Once Worthy in good standing Dont worry Tested The mortgage of $444 00 was discharged in 1869 the name at the time consisting of Rockwood Eden Mills Everton and Eramosa North In 1871 it was Rockwood Eden Mills Everton Arkell and Bethesda The caretaker was paid $ 00 per month for winter months and the matter of enlarging the church to hold 60 or 70 more people was considered In 1874 5 the Town Hall was rented for services at $1 25 per Sabbath Light and fuel provided Circuit in 1878 Rockwood Eden Mills Everton and Arkell The caretaker resigned in 1887 and a new one was appointed at $ 6 00 per annum By this time the Methodist Episcopal Church on Harris Street had closed and the funds were transferred to the local trustees In 1888 the circuit was Rockwood Everton Eden Mills, Crewsons Corners and Siloam and in 1894 Everton was transferred to another circuit probably joining with Eramosa North or the Stone Church and Bethel 9 saw another move on foot to enlarge the church at Rockwood and in 1919 Everton Eden Mills Crewsons Corners and Siloam were closed Rockwood Circuit became Rockwood Stone Church and Bethel this arrangement remained in force until union in 1925 when the new charge in the United Church became Rockwood and The Stone Church The final meeting of the Trustees of the Methodist Church as such was held in the church on July 4 1925 Robert E Johnston Chairman, Chas H Harris Secretary Treasurer

In the year 186' a few of the inhabitants of the Township of Eramosa residing in and about Rockwood met in the schoolhouse of S S No 4 and petitioned the Guelph Presbytery of the Canada Presbyterian Church (organized in that year by the union of the United Presbyterian Church with the Free Presbyterian Church to be erected into a station in connection with the congregation at Eden Mills and pledged themselves to subscribe $142 00 per annum The following Spring they ordered two dozen benches and united with Eden Mills in a call to Rev James Thom

to be their pastor In May, 1863, they leased the Rockwood Temperance Hall from Geo Easton at $20 00 per annum for two years payable half yearly this lease was renewed early in 1865 for 1 or 5 years, payable quarterly Trouble with Eden Mills caused Rockwood to request Presbytery to connect them with Everton and Amose with Mr Thom as minister Presbytery agreed but in August Rockwood accepted Mr Thom's resignation In September Eden Mills proposed reunion but Rockwood declined unless Eden Mills agreed to pay 2 3 of the stipend About this time the hall was relet to the Literary Society and to a singing class at $1 00 per night In March 1868 Rockwood proposed reunion with Eden Mills, offering to pay $250 00 per annum Eden Mills declined In November a committee appointed to look out for a building lot for a church reported a lot given gratis by Alex Hill opposite the Hall and a lot offered by Col Henry Strange on to S Soper's house the latter lot would be about where the woollen factory now stands Col Strange's daughter who died in 1932 aged over 80 told me that her father who owned much of Rockwood in the early days offered a church lot to any denomination that wished to build In March 1867 a lot 100 feet square was purchased from Mrs Colom for $100 00 The First Trustees were A Nairn Contractor D Clark Miller and Wm McNabb Yeoman

The membership had now increased to 27 and they petitioned Presbytery for a separate organisation as a congregation Presbytery appointed Rev Wm Barrie to preach and preside at an election of Elders at such a time as he could conveniently attend to the business and the Kirk session of Eden Mills to act as assessors to Mr Barrie at the said election and ordination Mr Barrie having appointed May 28 1867 for the election, the congregation met at 3 o'clock and after sermon proceeded with the election Henry Tozeland Donald McCaig and Wm Dryden were elected, Mr McCaig declined Messrs Tozeland and Dryden were ordained at the meeting house on June 18 Wm Dryden was made Clerk The communion roll at this date included David Clark Maria Clark John McLeod Alex and Margaret Burns Wm and Agnes McNabb Henry and Sarah Tozeland, S Nairn Agnes Farrell Jane Hewett Wm Wilson Ann Clark Alex Nairn, David Clark Jr Mrs H I Andrew Burns George Robertson Charlotte Robertson Thos McMecken Mrs McMecken Mrs Gibson Robert and Janet Farries Wm Dryden and Eliza Dryden At the time of the nomination Donald McCaig was not a member of the congregation but it was unanimously agreed that his name be added In August Rockwood proposed re-union with Eden Mills offering to pay $300 00 per annum which Eden Mills accepted

In October a contract was let for a stone church 34 x 50 feet at $950 00 to Carson and McGregor The lot donated by Alex Hill was offered for sale at $40 00 and a committee was appointed to examine the pews in The Congregational Church Guelph and to purchase same if suitable Alex McMillan was appointed to form a choir The first Session Meeting was held on January 1868 Those present were Rev William Barrie Moderator Int H Tozeland and Wm Dryden Clerk Wm Dryden was appointed a representative to presbytery It was agreed to dispense sacrement as soon as convenient On December 16, 1868, a joint session

of Eden Mills and Rockwood met Mr Barrie Moderator Messrs Davidson, Barnet, Tozeland and Dryden Rev Edward Reeve having been inducted to the united congregations Rev Wm Barrie resigned the office of Moderator to him The Trustees were instructed to give a note for the balance of money due the contractor for as long a period as they could arrange at 7% The Bible was ordered to be rebound and windows frosted at 50c each On December 4 1871 the congregation decided to build sheds for horses and requested Eden Mills to allow Rockwood to have the morning service and Eden Mills the afternoon Eden Mills replied that they could not agree to the proposal Rockwood then proposed that if Eden Mills insisted on the morning service they should pay $50 00 more per annum and Rockwood $50 00 less but they beg and pray that Eden Mills reconsider their decision so that Rockwood may sustain their position in sustaining gospel ordinances

In 1872 John Burns, Robert Dredge and Wm Torrance were elected Elders Wm Dryden resigned as Session Clerk in 1875 and John Burns was appointed Answering a question of Presbytery 'What course can be pursued to remove the reserve generally felt between Pastor and people in conversing on the question of personal religion and Christian experience?' The session replied 'We could not desire that the religion of Jesus should become a religion of talk or that our people should ever become an experience telling people A greater simplicity and freer conversation on religious subjects is desirable and to this end a timely sermon or two would be beneficial The year 1874 saw negotiations well under way for the union of Canada Presbyterian Church (1861) Presbyterian Church of Canada (1831) Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces (1866) and the Synod of the Maritime Provinces (1868) to form The Presbyterian Church in Canada The Session at Rockwood unanimously adopted the basis of union and Rev Edward Reeve demitted the charge a month later I am unable to state whether the minister resigned as a result of the stand of the Session or whether there was no connection between the two acts Rev James Little became Interim Moderator

Among the names of new members joining in 1874 we find that of William Burns at this time of writing, Mr Burns is still an active member and a regular attendant at the United Church (1931) Mr Burns parents, Alex and Margaret have already been mentioned as charter members, and his brother John as Session Clerk William Burns died on May 30 1935, and was buried in the Burns plot in Everton Cemetery on June 3rd having been a member of this congregation for 61 years His son in law Geo C Bayne, is a Trustee in 1938 while a grandson Harvey Bayne is an usher A granddaughter Miss Doris Watson is an officer in the Young People's Society At the time of union in 1875 Rockwood proposed to Presbytery that Eden Mills Rockwood and Everton congregations be consolidated into one central station but no action was taken Rev Robert Torrance Moderator pro tem announced to the session that certain persons in and around Ospringe had applied to Presbytery to be formed into a station and have supplies of preaching sent Presbytery inquired whether Eden Mills and Rockwood had any objections. Differences between Eden Mills again developed when Rockwood forwarded to Eden Mills an account for min-

ister's board and livery which Eden Mills refused to pay A committee from Presbytery endeavoured to settle the differences but w thout success On January 18 1876, the Moderator announced that separation had been granted at the request of Rockwood Eden Mills dissent ng Robert Dredge resigned as an Elder in February and Rev Donald Strachan was inducted to Rockwood as a seperate charge n March The congregation bought a manse and obtained a supplementary grant from the Home Mission Fund, there were 24 members at that time

Archie McNabb. James Gordon and James Ramsey were elected elders in 1877 Archie McNabb and James Ramsey declined James Gordon was the father of the present Session Clerk George Gordon John Armstrong was elected elder n 1880 and Wm Torrance died the following year In 1881 also Eden Mills applied to rejoin Rockwood and Presbytery approved John McQueen and James Gray were elected elders in 1882 and Wm Dryden resigned n the following year James Gray remained an elder until his death about 1923 His w dow, who was a member of the Presbyterian Church since union n 1925 died in January 1938, and was buried beside her husband n Rockwood Cemetery a few days ago, both Presbyterian and United ministers taking part n the funeral service In 1885 a motion to introduce an organ carried by 85 to 3 On November 19, 1888 there was no evening service on account of the re-opening of The Canada Methodist Church in Rockwood This is the first reference to another denomination that appears in the session records except possibly the innocent reference n 1873 to an experience telling people which is too delightfully humorous in 1931 to Presbyterians and Methodists alike, to leave untold Introduction of hymns followed in 1890 and unfermented wine in 1892 John McQueen resigned as elder in 1896 and Robert Scott was elected In 1897 we find the demission of Rev D Strachan with Rev H A McPherson as interim Moderator Rev J A Cranston was inducted in 1898, leaving n 1901 he is now n charge of Kew Beach United Church in Toronto and returned to Rockwood to preach the anniversary sermons about 1931 Rovert Scott resigned as Elder in 1901 and the following year Rev J T Hall was inducted as minister

Walter Swanston Hector Munro Colin Cameron, George Gordon and Joseph Croft were elected elders in 1903 Colin Cameron declining After 33 years as Session Clerk John Burns resigned in 1906 George Gordon was appointed and has held that office since Rev J T Hall left in 1907 and Rev W C Dodds was called in 1908 In January 1911 James Gordon passed away and on March 24th Mr and Mrs John Burns were drowned in the wreck of the SECHELT in the Straits of Juan de Fuca In May, George Graham George H Pearen and John Graham were elected elders About the middle of 1918 the death of Rev W C Dodds left the charge vacant and Rev John Little was inducted at Eden Mills in December Messrs J A Little Colin Kitching and Robert Moore were elected elders In 1922 Rev John Little resigned in 1923 and was followed by Rev J Ure Stewart In 1924 the session unanimously supported union with the Methodist and Congregational Churches The Board of Managers were divided,For, 3 Against 6 The result of the congregational vote in January. 1925, was Number on Roll, 261 For union 135, Against 73 Eden

Mills having voted not to enter The United Church the relation between Rockwood and Eden Mills was automatically dissolved

The Unionists and Methodists at Rockwood then united with Rev A Donaldson as minister forming a congregation of 277 members This congregation then united with the Stone Church Eramosa (Methodist) to form a charge in the United Church The Session of the Presbyterian congregation resigned en bloc in June but were re-elected by the United congregation with the addition of Messrs C H Harris John Jardine J E Carton and George W Peal from the Methodist Church At the time of union the minorities of Presbyterians at Rockwood and of Unionists at Eden Mills immediately withdrew and established other congregations the Presbyterians at Rockwood retaining their connection with the parent congregation at Eden Mills and later pairing with a Guelph congregation to form a 3 point charge The Unionists at Eden Mills took over and renovated the former Methodist church and joined with Ebenezer and Arkell to form a charge in the United Church Rev A Donaldson resigned from the ministry of the United Church in 1929 and the Rockwood and Stone Church congregations called Rev W J Taylor as minister H S Hosking and James Watson were elected elders in 1930 and the Young Peoples Society distinguished itself by making the largest contribution to the Missionary and Maintenance Fund of any Young Peoples Society in the Hamilton Conference The Hydro was installed in May 1931 in September the new Sunday School and Choir rooms vestry and kitchen were opened and in October the congregation delighted to honour by unanimous election to the Session Rev John Little a former pastor known and beloved throughout Northwestern Ontario as a valiant Christian and a kindly friend When resigning from the pastorate at Rockwood Mr Little had continued to reside in Rockwood while serving the Presbyterians at Barrie Hall and the Congregational Church at Speedside until 1925 when he retired by residence at Rockwood and was inducted to the United Church at Cumming In 1930 he retired to his Rockwood home his return was saddened by the death at this time of his beloved wife Continuing his activity in meeting the many preaching demands made on him for some years he died at Rockwood on New Years Day 1937 At the Annual congregational meeting 1938 the writer was appointed one of a committee to consider the question of a suitable memorial to this Christian gentleman who left the blacksmiths forge in manhood to enter a ministerial career of untold influence in the cause of Christian Living

At the annual meeting in 1936 the last outstanding note on the new building of 1931 was burned while the congregation sang the Doxology The same year saw the commencement of both piano and organ for general use during the morning service Gowns for minister and choir were an innovation early in 1937 with the choir assuming financial responsibility and quickly securing the necessary funds In the Spring Messrs D A McMullen and S H Hosking were elected elders and Rev W J Taylor resigned the charge to accept a call to Dorchester Ont His eight years of ministry had been of such a nature that both congregations were strongly opposed to his resignation He is usually credited with being the instigator in the move which resulted in the erection of the additions to

the church in 1931, and his consistently encouraging attitude regarding Young Peoples, Choir, general welfare and community activities had endeared him to church and community While minister at Rockwood he was honoured with the Secretaryship and Chairmanship of Presbytery in turn A joint congregational meeting in April, 1937, extended a unanimous call to Rev P H Lawson of Thedford who was inducted in July of that year and entered into his duties in a way that augurs well for a happy and successful ministry in the community

The origin of the congregations at Eden Mills and Rockwood seems to have been Secession Church, although it is difficult to trace through the maze of divisions and unions from 1743 to 1875 The established Church of Scotland and several seceding branches were active in Eramosa from 1830 to 1835, but while the Church of Scotland became established in Guelph and in Esquesing the Secession churches seem to have held lower Eramosa while upper Eramosa was Reformed Presbyterian These all united in 1875 to form The Presbyterian Church in Canada A few congregations refused to join, notably the American Presbyterian Church in Montreal and a Presbyterian church almost opposite present Boston church in Esquesing The Montreal church joined the United Church in 1925, the Boston church that did not join in 1875 has been closed for years The present Boston church voted in 1925 not to join the United Church

Several of the surnames of members of the original Rockwood congregations may be found on the rolls of today, such as Burns, McNabb, Pesmore, Clark, Hewatt, Farries, Croft, Cripps Nelson and Smith There are four instances of father and son serving together as elders James and George Gordon (1903), George and John Graham (1911) Rev John and J A Little (1931) and H S and B H Hosking (1937) The history of these churches and congregations reveals a lamentable lack of tact and forbearance, particularly in the ever recurrent separations and re-unions, the grasping at the shadow and missing the substance but these are human frailties and it is heartening to note that the Church of Christ the King is strong and enduring enough to withstand not only attacks from without, but can march on and succeed despite the weakening influence of internal strife It is safe to say that any other organization developing such differences of opinion within its ranks would have collapsed, but the mercy of the Lord endureth forever

Rev P H Lawson was minister for 4 years, July 1937 to June, 1941 David A McMillan had died and A J Elliott, Frank Moore, Wm McNabb and Frank Day were elected elders, Frank Day declining due to opposition to life eldership. Rev John Ward was called in 1941, coming from Calvary Church, Hamilton an Englishman who has sailed the seven seas in wild youthfulness and a veteran wounded in World War I, he brought vigor and experience to the charge that fitted well into the war torn years. The session at this time consisted of G H Pearen, J A Little, C H Harris, H S. Hosking, B H Hosking, A J Elliott, Frank Moore and Wm. McNabb. George Gordon, George Graham and Robert Moore had died John Graham, Geo. W Peel and Colin Kitching had resigned. James Watson

and Wm McNabb had moved away and C H Harris had succeeded Geo. Gordon as Clerk of the Session when Ross Gordon, Jesse Gordier and Wilbur Patterson were added to the Session

In 1947 Mr Ward was very active in the remodelling of the Stone Church A ded by substantia bequests, the congregation added classrooms, basement furnace orgsn and new furniture throughout, making the church an ideal place of beauty and worship Mr Ward decided to retire after 7 years at Rockwood and wound up his last full year in the active m nistry by adding some 60% to the membership of the Stone Church this be ng the highest percentage of increase in the Presbytery for 1947 For the church year 1946-7 he was Chairman of Guelph Presbytery

At the inaugural meeting of the united congregation at Rockwood, the congregation favoured . fe eldersh p by a small margin Several votes during the next 20 years sustained this small marg n In 1947, a rotary eldership was n favour by a small margin Elections were held, resulting as follows For 4 years—C H Harr s H S. Hosking, and W Patterson, 3 years Frank Moore, J A Little and J Gordier, 2 years -G. H. Pearen, B. H. Hosk ng and Ross Gordon 1 year A B. Root, Frank Day and Cyril Knight. A. J Elliott was also elected but declined owing to opposition to rotary eldership Revs Dr R O Joll ffe and C J P Jolliffe were elected honorary elders.

In 1948 the congregation called Rev (Major) John W Oliver of Niagara-on the-Lake, an Engl shman and veteran of two World Wars For the first time in its history the congregation had one of its members at General Counc l, the wr ter going to Vancouver as an elected commissioner from Hamilton Conference The annual meeting in 1949 saw the salary of the min ster increased to $2100 the treasurers reported all obligations met n ful and an increase of 20% in missionary contributions over 1947 Frank L Ostrander was elected elder, replacing Cyril Knight, removed. In Summer, the shed and some land was sold to Miss Annie Jolliffe In 1950, the retir ng elders, G H. Pearen, Ross Gordon and B. H. Hosking were re-elected Trustees John Taylor, Geo. C Bayne and Andrew J Elliott

In 1952, Mr H S Hosk ng announced that he would not be a candidate for re-elect on as elder owing to advancing years, he was appointed an honorary elder by the congregation In the election which followed, Mr Robert L Bingham was elected for four years.

In January, 1952 the Offic al Board passed a resolution to increase the salary of the min ster from $2500 to $2700 and travelling allowance from $100 to $125, n order to meet the m nimum set by General Council The minister accepted the ncrease of $25 00 as travelling allowance but refused to accept the ncrease of $200 00 n salary

It was decided in the Spring that accommodation should be provided for more Sunday School room and better kitchen and wash room facilities Earth from the necessary excavation was deposited across the street, providing much needed room for right angle parking, a vast improvement on the parallel parking that had previously been necessary.

On October 15th, the walls and roof of the new building were in place and insulation of the interior was under way. The completed addition was dedicated at a special service on Sunday, March 8th, 1953, with Rev. John W. Oliver in charge, assisted by Rev. John Ward. The Chairman of Guelph Presbytery, Rev. Theo. J. Rees, of Elora, preached the sermon.

The new minimum salary of $3100.00 was adopted at the Official Board meeting on January 13th, 1953. Rev. J. W. Oliver tendered his resignation as minister, to be effective at June 30th. In February, the charge voted to extend a call to Rev. John A. Dilts of Calvary United Church, Hamilton. Mr. Dilts accepted and will be inducted on July 3rd. This is his second appointment at Rockwood; he was minister in charge of Rockwood Circuit of the Methodist Church for the year 1924-1925.

At the annual election of elders in 1953, Mr. David S. Armstrong replaced Mr. Frank Day as member of session.

## The Presbyterian Church, Rockwood

The early history of this church is, of course, included in the history of the United Church, Rockwood. At the time of union in 1925, about one-third of the members of the Presbyterian Church were opposed to union and withdrew their membership from that congregation. A new congregation was organized and The Friends' Church was secured immediately. With plenty of enthusiasm and good financial support, a minister was secured and the congregation has flourished for a quarter of a century. Rev. J. H. Simpson was in charge, followed by Rev. L. E. Gosselin (died 1952) who lived in Col. Mutrie's house at the rear of the Post Office and later on Harris Street. In 1929, the congregation is described as "The Rockwood and Eden Mills Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada". A manse was purchased in that year for $3000.00, the Deed for which reads as follows: "Robert Frederick McWilliams of the Village of Rockwood in the County of Wellington and his wife Hazel Gege McWilliams to William Swanston, George Raymond Martin, John McNabb, of the Village of Rockwood, R. W. Wilson, John W. Dyer, James Gilbertson, of the Village of Eden Mills, Trustees of the Rockwood and Eden Mills Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, (the said Presbyterian Church in Canada being the continuing Presbyterian Church, not merged in or associated with The United Church of Canada, and hereinafter referred to as The Presbyterian Church".

Rev. W. H. McCracken was the first and only minister to occupy the Manse. After he left, the Manse was rented for some years and the congregation was served by Rev. James Milroy, Rev. H. R. Bertis, and other student supply. The Rockwood and Eden Mills congregation were joined with St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Guelph, and Rev. H. A. Wilson was the minister. Mr. Wilson lived in Eden Mills; he kept a cow and Eden Mills appeared to be better adapted for a Manse with accommodation of this nature. Rev. Mr. Wilson was the possessor of a beautiful tenor voice which he used to advantage in singing the old familiar psalms. Rev. Samuel Johnson served the congregation for some time, to be followed by Rev.

The author and family, St. George's Park, Guelph
Picture taken in 1952

Dr W J McIvor a brother of Rev Dan McIvor United Church minister and for many years Liberal member for Fort William in the Federal House, and still a frequent speaker there in 1950 Dr McIvor resided in Guelph and during his pastorate in 1945 the Rockwood Manse was sold to Frank Day for $2650.00 the Deed therefore reading as follows Gordon Swanston of the Township of Eramosa Farmer Archibald McNabb of the Township of Eramosa Retired Farmer and Peter R Sim of the Township of Eramosa County of Wellington Clerk Trustees of Rockwood Presbyterian Church and R W Wilson Retired Farmer and James Gilbertson, Thresher both of the Township of Nassagaweya in the County of Halton, Trustees of Eden Mills Presbyterian Church being Trustees of the Rockwood and Eden Mills Congregations of The Presbyterian Church in Canada (The said Presbyterian Church in Canada being the continuing Presbyterian Church not merged in or associated with The United Church of Canada, and hereinafter referred to as The Presbyterian Church) to Frank Day of Rockwood in the Township of Eramosa WHEREAS the sale of the lands hereinafter described to the Grantee for the price hereinafter mentioned was approved at a meeting of the congregation of Rockwood Presbyterian Church held on the 3rd or 7th day of June 1945 and at a meeting of the Congregation of Eden Mills Presbyterian Church held on the 27th day of May 1945 as is evidenced by the execution hereof by W J McIvor the Chairman of the said meetings

Rev Dr McIvor left for Ireland shortly after this date and Rev Fred Williamson residing in Guelph has since ministered effectually to this congregation Elders who have served this congregation and have died during the 75 years are Robert Harwood William Swanston William Wishart William A Dickieson William M Croft Robert Wanless and Mr Mitchell Malcolm Smith moved away Present elders are George Harwood Arch McNabb Albert E Gray William J Gordon (Clerk of Session), Roy G Young Peter R Sim and Edward J Pearen

There were many serious splits in congregations in 1925 but few, if any were more spectacular than that of Rockwood In numbers, the continuing Presbyterians were not strong only one third of the congregation withdrawing but the personnel was certainly strong Led by Col John Mutrie J P Postmaster and Township Treasurer Ex M P P Reeve and Warden and John McNabb prominent in church and school affairs for half a century they included W A Dickieson Ex-Reeve and Warden, Sims McLean later to become Reeve and Warden D D Grey later to become Reeve and Warden Arch McNabb later Reeve William Swanston, Councillor Gordon F Swanston later Chairman of the Township School Board Robert Scott Ex Councillor and Collector J E Pearen later Chairman of the Erin School Board W M Croft prominent in Rockwood Cheese Factory and in the Rockwood Rural Shipping Association G R Martin, Manager of the Royal Bank and many other active and willing workers including A E Gray Malcolm Smith Wm Wishart Robt Wanless Robt Harwood Roy G Young Peter Sim and others Probably no other congregation in the County of Wellington ever included four Wardens and five Reeves at one time certainly no one congregation ever lost that many at one sweep Acting as the last chairman of Managers of the Presbyterian Church in June 1925 and the first Chairman of Stewards of The United

Church in July, 1925, the writer was in the thick of the hubbub. Although the Presbyterians did not get one elder to leave the congregation, they got six of the nine managers and all of the trustees. The six managers were J. D. McNabb, A. E. Gray, Wm. Swanston, Wm. Croft, Wm. Wishart and Robt. Wanless. The Trustees were John McNabb and Wm. Swanston. The battle for the property continued for months. The United Church retained the property but the Presbyterian Church retains the deeds and business records a quarter of a century later, although they have been readily loaned to the United Church at various times for historic or other purposes.

## Historical Sketch of the Parish of Acton and Rockwood Diocese of Niagara

By Rev. E. A. Brooks, M.A.

To write of the beginnings of the villages of Acton and Rockwood in the Province of Ontario is to write of pioneer days. A hundred years ago the people were by hard and slow effort turning unbroken bush into farmlands, making homes in places that their fathers knew not. They were not entering into anyone else's labours, these men and women from England, Ireland and Scotland; it was something new that they were making, these farms with their first buildings, made of the materials at hand, fields with their stump fences or their zig-zag rails. They were making the garden of Canada. Theirs it was to break new ground, to lay foundations to endure hardship, to amuse themselves with simple and homemade pleasures, for much travel was out of the question. Some few of the earliest and most strategically placed settlements developed in time into towns and the odd one into a city. But that is a later chapter in the story.

Our concern is with one such place in the County of Wellington—the Royal City of Guelph. For the 40 years following 1832 the name of the Rev. Arthur Palmer was linked with the growth of that town. Rector of its mother church, dedicated to its patron, St. George, an energetic horseriding missionary, Parson Palmer was a familiar figure far and wide over the countryside. For like other priests similarly situated in those days his parish was large and by no means confined to the town. On his arrival, farmhouses and wayside taverns became places of worship sanctified by the administration of the rites of religion. They marked the beginnings of small gatherings of people happy to use again their prayerbooks, to have their children baptized, their marriages blessed and their dead buried according to the familiar ordinances. Out of them grew little churches into whose building went almost every human feeling and emotion. Some of these essays were destined to continue, others not.

North of Guelph in the Township of Eramosa, one such beginning was made in a tavern at what was known as the Four Corners. The old stone building still stands, though no church was ever built and no parish ever came into being. Another was South of Guelph on Farnham Plains, later Arkell. Here a church was built and its surrounding churchyard set apart. Parson Palmer was then in his second decade as Rector of Guelph.

Then comes the name of Rockwood, a village six miles East of Guelph, whose name is a sufficient description of its situation. There the Eramosa

branch of the Speed river flows through a lovely valley with high rocky hills covered with evergreens and hiding caves and pot-holes the latter among the most interesting in the world with which the surrounding undulating country combines to make one of the most beautiful sites imaginable for a settlement. Here too was latent water power early harnessed to run the first sawmill in the County and a large and important woollen mill. Here was established a parish church dedicated to St. John.

The Township of Eramosa the name is Indian and means "a dead dog" on-ne-mo-sa had been surveyed in 1819 and the first settler in what was to become the village of Rockwood came in 1821. John Harris was an adherent of the Society of Friends and his shanty stood on the site of the brick house just west of the church (Lot 1 Block B Strange's Survey about 928 the Presbyterian Manse at this date 1950 the residence of Frank Day. He was later joined by his two sisters who opened the first school in the County under the subsequent principalship of a Mr. Wetherald whose daughter Ethelwyn ranks as one of our best poets this same school bore the name of Rockwood Academy. Here several generations of boys were prepared to take their places as useful citizens until the days when government High Schools rendered its usefulness past and it was closed. The building still stands at the Southern entrance to the village the first on the left as you approach part of it used as a private dwelling. One who must have been something of a philosopher in those days and sympathetic with the life of the pioneer wrote. God did not put more on their back than they were able to bear in which it is not difficult to detect the unspoken implication that He usually puts considerably more than we would agreeably accept. Another observer has this to say. "There is a great tendency of the youth to break away from parental rule at an early age."

In 1840 a young man of 25 with his 17 year old bride came to settle on a thousand acres in Rockwood. They were Henry and Elizabeth Ann Strange. Strange Street in Guelph memorializes this family which was also the pioneer family there living in the old Priory. Their stone house in Rockwood stands on the hill to the East of the Highway just South of the river. They were both to spend their entire lives in the village. Squire Strange was a character and more and more so until he died in 1906 at the age of 91. Mrs. Strange died in 920 at the age of 97. twelve years later their daughter Mary a music teacher died at the age of 90. They were all poor then. "Liberty Hall" the home where everyone did as he pleased had been a fine house. They died full of years and poverty in a little frame house which the old man used to call "Lord Nobody's Castle" (Lot 49 Block A Strange's Survey in 950 the residence of Alex Weide). Mr. Strange gave the land for the church and identified its location by his own peculiar method which none can now follow as the landmarks he used have long since disappeared. The stone for the present church came from his quarry. The first entry in the register of baptisms is that of his daughter Jane (1851) whose name two years later is the third in the register of burials. The last interment in the Churchyard was that of his Doctor son, Frank in 1887.

The earliest entry in the register of marriages is one performed on July 18th, 1849, by the Rev. Donald Fraser, Minister of the Church of

England The bride was Mary Eliza Moore of the Township of Eramosa, and the bridegroom William Hewat Esquire of the Town of Guelph, widower Rev Donald Fraser was a travelling missionary to whom in 1848 Archdeacon Palmer had handed over the work he was doing in Woolwich Township He was another of those men who in the early days covered a wide area Mr Fraser's area included the Elora district and as far East as Esquesing township in the County of Halton and probably included the Village of Acton though the name is not mentioned in the reports of the Church Society It is not till 1852 that the name of Rockwood is mentioned in these reports The Church record shows that during this decade Rockwood and Eramosa received the ministrations of the Archdeacon's assistant curate Rev Edward Michael Stewart who returned to Ireland in 1859 It was in this latter year the property was deeded to the Church Society of the Diocese of Toronto and in all probability the church was then built A resident incumbent arrived in 1859 He was a young English clergyman of some scholarship who had been at Glen Allan and then with Archdeacon Palmer Rev C H Drinkwater He lived in a frame house on the same site as Mr Harris's shanty and stayed until 1863 ministering to Farnham Plains Rockwood and Eramosa A little of his story is told in extracts from letters written to Mr William Wood of Rockwood

Nov 17th 1890 St George's Vicarage Shrewsbury Eng

"I hasten to reply to your letter of November 1st which reached my hand yesterday May I say at once I was delighted with your letter My career is partly known to you I left Hamilton on leave of absence for one year to visit relations at home who wanted me found them dead on arrival in July 1868 got some duty as curate for 12 months and then found I could not return to Canada which I always wished to do I had three different situations in England till I was offered this encumbency in 1872 This church was built on ground given by my father in the year I was born and I am living in the house where I was educated which is now the personage house and have been here without the intermission of one month ever since In my diary I find a memorandum which runs thus 1863, Wed Jan 7 married Wm Wood to Sarah Pimlett at Pusmich I well remember the wedding feast and the turkey which I carved all away till there was none left for myself No doubt there were plenty of other things As I went on horseback my wife was not with me and the next day I lectured at Everton on the "Pilgrim Fathers" Thanks for your news which is not ample enough to satisfy my curiosity Tell me of the Benhams, Sacketts, Swinfords Moores, Worsfols Arkells (I buried Mary Arkell on 25th May 1862) Davidsons Stranges and others whose names have escaped me

And so you have built a stone church higher up What of the log church in the upper part of the township which we called the Ascension Church That I suppose is suspended I should much like to know how long it stood I well remember the raising bee and the tree-loads we found in the trees we cut down

What of the Macarees of the Lushes of the Orangemen up at Drumhill? What a lot you could tell me, you might write a volume If money, health and leisure allowed, I should yet in my old age cross the Atlantic

and visit my old haunts, but I should go further back than Eramosa, to Glenallan and Wallace where I was before coming to Rockwood. Then there were the Pasmores and the Thurtells. There was a lot of brotherly love among us. What of the stable I built on the Church lot? I am getting old, nearly 60, and we both feel we are going down hill.

Dec. 17th, 1890. I shall carefully preserve your letter. It gives me so much information and refreshes my memory about people and things I was well-nigh forgetting. First of all give my best respects and wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Strange; we often speak of them. I well remember my first introduction to him. I am sorry to hear that the Ascension Church is pulled down. We were very proud when we put it up. I think Mr. Davidson had the contract for the woodwork. It lasted quite as long as we could have expected. I suppose you have a personage in the village and that it is on the lot where my stable stood, as I took care to secure ground there sufficient for a house and garden and fenced it all around. I should like very much to come to Rockwood and have a look around. I have not seen it since 1863.

Jan. 13th, 1891. I preached my first sermon on The Pains and well remember how nervous I was and anxious to have Mr. Palmer's verdict that I had not broken down. I have the manuscript still. It was from Jonah 1. 6. "What meanest thou, O sleeper?" The date was Oct. 19th, 1856, some years before I was settled in Rockwood. I preached the same sermon in Guelph that evening. I do not think I have used it since. In my list it was No. 1. The last number is 1314. I keep all my manuscripts as at times it is impossible to write new ones. This is a large parish to work single handed and frequently I do not get a couple of hours in a week altogether free from engagements and I could not follow the example of the rector of Malpas who leaves his sermons in the pulpit for anyone to take who likes.

Feb. 10, 1891. You speak of my antiquarian work. I take great delight in it and am anticipating with pleasure a MS. of the time of King John which I am to transcribe and prepare for publication, but I cannot have it till I have completed two other MSS. which I have on hand. Very few people can read these old writings. The characters are peculiar, they are full of abbreviations and in some cases they are sadly faded by time. A.D. 1109 is the date of the document I am to have; that is 782 years ago. Parchment was good, and where it has not come in contact with damp as black as ever it was. I should enjoy a Summer in Canada but there would be lacking time and money and in my case I have neither. All my recollections of Canada are pleasant. In August I hope to get a fortnight or rather eleven days in Ireland to see the principal antiquities if I can get my duties taken.

March 31st, 1891. We are delighted with the sketch of Puslinch Church. It is exquisitely done and if it is your own work you have missed your vocation which is that of an artist or fine line engraver. It arrived this morning and at once I took it off to be mounted and framed. It reminds me of days long since passed and I shall prize it highly. A companion picture of the Rockwood Church if you are in a position to make one would be a boon we feel diffident in asking for but which we should never feel tired of looking at.

The grand old man, Gladstone, is getting imbecile, bidding for power by every device. It will be an evil day for the country if he ever gets a majority in Parliament. We may expect nothing but blunders, increased taxation and possibly a European war. With best remembrances to your wife and surviving old friends, believe me yours sincerely C H Drinkwater

It is aggravating not to be able to quote from Mr Wood's share of this correspondence. The 5 years in Hamilton mentioned above were spent as Rector of St Thomas' Church. He must have been still in his early thirties when he left Rockwood. His picture shows him a strong looking man with a handsome determined face full of character.

The Ascension Church which he mentions was at Lot 21, Concession 4, of Eramosa, just South of Oustic. This property was deeded to the Church Society on June 1st, 1861, by David Day et ux—half an acre. The log church was used for something more than 20 years to be closed when the 2nd St John's was opened for services. Today a few forgotten gravestones remain and the outline of the church foundation can be traced on the turf. There were a few families who agreed at the time to make Rockwood their parish Church but they never came. The Oakes, the Clarkes, the Lushes of subsequent generations were lost to the Church of England. Thus Mr Drinkwater shepherded the flock at the three churches of Puslinch (Arkell) Rockwood and Eramosa which on his departure were again worked from Guelph by R J Stewart, 1863 and 1868, and H Stringfellow, 1864-5, both probably curates of Archdeacon Palmer's.

During these years the Church stood close to the corner on the ground now occupied by the war memorial. It was an unpretentious frame building with a corner curtained off as a vestry and with little enough of ecclesiastical beauty about it. One family newly arrived in the community drove round and round the village at church time and failed to recognize anything that remotely resembled a church. For many years now this same structure has served admirably as a hardware store on the opposite side of the street. In 1880 it was not considered worth repair and was happily abandoned to give place to one of the most beautifully situated village churches in Ontario, a stone church of excellent proportions and considerable charm, standing on the highest and most commanding site in Rockwood. Meanwhile the old church had served the congregation of St John's and the register tells the tale of the work during those years of seven clergymen.

Two years after the departure for Hamilton of Rev C H Drinkwater the name of a distinguished missionary in those days appears in our records. It is that of Mr Johnstone Vicars who travelled over a wide rural area which included Erin Hillsburg and Garafraxa as well as Rockwood, Puslinch and Equesing and as far east as Caledon. In the three years between November 1865 and November 1868, 121 persons were baptised at his hands. The next two names are those of the Rev W W Bates and Rev Wm Massey. At this time Esquesing meant Acton. We must now go back a bit to pick up a different set of threads which are to be woven into our story.

The first ministrations of religion to the Church of England settlers in Esquesing Township were those of Rev. Adam Elliott, a travelling missionary whose work extended over a large part of central Ontario. His diary is a record of vast activities when travelling was difficult. In 1845 when a Post Office was established and Adamsville became Acton, the country through which the railway had not yet penetrated, is described as almost unbroken bush. Just what the beginnings of regular church life were is uncertain, but it is known that there was a mission station at Baltinafad as early as 1849, probably ministered to by Rev. J. G. D. MacKenzie and Rev. Dr. F. A. O'Meara from Georgetown. It is unlikely that services were held weekly, or that there was any church property there. There is then a gap until we find the clergyman resident in Rockwood coming to Acton to hold services in the Old Temperance Hall. The legend is preserved that the roof leaked and that one winter day he slipped and fell on the ice on the floor. The Mission then comprised congregations at Acton, Rockwood, Erin, Eramosa, Hillsburg and Garafraxa, and the missionary was Rev. W. W. Bates. He rode a horse which he called "Hiawatha". By 1872 the mission was divided and Rev. Wm. Massey took the Northern part, Erin, Hillsburg and Garafraxa, while Acton, Rockwood and Eramosa were placed under the care of Rev. W. F. Swallow, who lived in Acton in the rough cast house on the Northeast corner of Main St. and Bower Ave., which seems to be the twin sister of the house purchased 3 years later for a rectory. In the same year the church was built and Mr. Swallow gave it the name St. Alban's. Pustinch remained under the wing of St. George's, Guelph, and the remainder of the mission grouped itself into two parts, of which the Northern and Eastern part ceases to concern us and we are left with the mission of Acton, Rockwood and Eramosa, under the rectorship of Mr. Swallow.

The property described as the Southeast half of Village lot No. 5 in Block I in the Village of Acton was deeded to the incorporated Synod of Toronto in 1872 by Wm. Sharp and Esther his wife, of Hamilton. The church built was a plain rectangular frame structure with the door at the East end. Being free of debt four years later it was consecrated on July 4th, 1876 by the first bishop of Niagara, whose Episcopate began in that year. Mr. Swallow was a young married man in deacon's orders who remained till 1874 when he was priested and became assistant to Archdeacon Palmer. He lived on into honoured retirement and died in 1930 at the ripe old age of 92. For 14 years from 1876 he was Rector of Caledon and surrounding places and from 1890 to his retirement at the age of 80 in 1918 he was rector of Woodbridge and Pine Grove. During the year following his departure from Acton, the parish was in charge of Rev. Christopher T. Denroche, son of the Irish clergyman of that name who came to Canada on the same boat as Archdeacon Palmer, and ministered to the parish of Brockville. He was accused of intemperance and of suffering from delirium tremens, a charge which many of his parishioners refused to believe, but it apparently was the reason for his forced departure after about a year in the parish.

In July, 1875 he was succeeded by a bachelor incumbent, Rev. Chas. Russell Lee, M.A. Later that year the present rectory, described as a very desirable property, was purchased from Mr. John Sharpe. More than a

year later we read that the people were paying for it by social events, quaintly known as "conversats" and that one such in February, 1877, netted them $37.50. The population of Acton was then 1000 people and there were 6 worshipping congregations namely Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregationalist, Church of England, Baptist and Disciple. Mr. Lee began his Sunday by conducting a service at the Ascension Church, Eramosa, in the morning. The afternoon service was held at Rockwood. The evening service in Acton was at 6.30 and is described as "preaching" in the Church Directory of The Acton Free Press, then (1876) in its second year of publication.

There was also Sabbath School at 2.30. When on July 4th, Bishop Fuller came to consecrate the church he confirmed 14 candidates. The next event of interest was Mr. Lee's elevation to the priesthood in St. George's Church, Guelph, on May 24th, 1877. When the Bishop preached from the text St. Matthew 5.13.15. The somewhat neatly worded newspaper account goes on to say that "the solemnization of the ordination ceremony was then gone through with". Mr. Lee left in 1880 (as did Mr. Baugh in 1925) to become incumbent of Port Colborne. The last years of his ministry were spent in the fine old parish of Grimsby. He is described as he was then, a quaint old boy, kindly, generous, no showy or attractive gifts, a gentleman by birth and in manner, a graduate of Trinity College and at one time a master at Trinity College School, Port Hope. Never very intimate with any of his brother parsons, he played a solitary hand, pursuing his own peculiar interests and methods.

## REV. W. J. PIGOTT

The new man was an enterprising Englishman, Rev. W. J. Pigott, who was ambitious to build two new churches. He succeeded in Rockwood but failed in Acton in that purpose. From the record of the Vestry Meetings for 1880 we glean that "the vestry being unwilling to repair the church, it was moved by Mr. Bernard seconded by Mr. Knowles, that the congregation build a new Church at a cost not to exceed $1000.00. Promises of $330.00 were made on the spot and three quarters of the total amount was to be guaranteed before the work was to commence. The Rector was instructed to apply to Dean Osler for specifications and plans. It was then moved by Mr. Knowles and Mr. Lister that the Church be built on the top of the hill. It was the intention then that the chancel window should be a memorial to the late Dr. Bethune, Bishop of Toronto. The architect of the new church was J. Hall, Esq., Guelph, the stone masons, Hume and Steele, Georgetown, the carpenter and joiner also responsible for the plasterwork and painting was Geo. Stephen and Son. Mr. Pigott went to England on a lecture tour and brought back money for the building fund, leaving Mr. (later Canon) Bull in charge during his absence. He is still remembered for his remark, no doubt humorously intended but long resented. "You'll do the work and I'll do the intellectual part." The chancel window was eventually installed in memory of his little son, Willie, who died while they were here. He did succeed in getting the interior of St. Alban's redecorated in a weird and wonderful colour scheme in 1881. Walls cream, ceiling lavender, chancel rose pink, woodwork stone-coloured and all finished with a narrow frescoe border. A new organ was purchased for $500.00 and fully paid for. Mrs. Pigott is remembered for

an exhibition of Tableaux along the line of Mrs. Jolly's waxwork show held in the Temperance Hall in 1881.

On January 4th 1886 the first burial in Fairview Cemetery took place when the body of George Steele who died of paralysis and old age was interred by Mr. Pigott who dedicated the grounds that same day. Speaking of causes of death here are a few as recorded in the old registers. D.T.s, dissipation, disease of the brain, suicide, general failure, enlarged neck, typhoid, cancer, chronic heart failure. After Mr. Pigott came Mr. Alexander George Edward Westmacott, a nephew of Archdeacon Dixon of Guelph, or rather he tried to come, for nobody wanted him having set their heart on a Wycliffe College student. He was asked not to stay. His aunt came along to try and straighten things out, but only succeeded in causing confusion worse confounded. He never lived in the rectory.

## REV. GEORGE BREGA COOKE

It was not until 1889 that the situation was satisfactorily settled by the appointment of Rev. G. B. Cooke of Palmerston. He is described as a dashing handsome fellow and was very popular. He enjoys the unique distinction of being the only rector who was ever thanked by the annual vestry meeting for his work in the parish and for him this was warmly done every year. He was able to be lavishly bountiful in his charity—it may have been to some extent not that they had seen the miracles, but had eaten of the loaves and were fed. With his family of 10 children, Mr. Cooke found the rectory too small and lived instead in a house built by Joseph Fyfe on the property where Beverly House later stood, the Beardmore residence. It was he who laid the corner stone of Acton Public School in 1892. After 5 years in the parish Mr. Cooke died at the age of 39. One parishioner tells us that he helped to bury the body of the late rector 3 times, first in January 1895 when Bishop Charles Hamilton conducted the rites in Acton. In the Spring the body was removed to Guelph and later moved by his mother to another place in the cemetery. Identical memorial tablets were placed in the two churches and in St. Alban's the font is also a memorial to him given by the Sunday School. Miss Elizabeth Moore herself made the cement base on which it still stands. Thus passed a genuinely beloved clergyman.

## REV. JOHN KEITH GODDEN

The next rector of the parish was Rev. J. K. Godden who came from Allendale in 1895. The Lord verily buried His workers and carries on His work.) and removed to Caledonia in 1902. (History again repeated itself when Rev. Philip Sawyer made the same move in 1932 just 30 years later). During this period the rectory was raised 18 inches, repaired and enlarged. In 1898 a vestry meeting was called at St. Alban's to consider the proposal made by the Rockwood congregation and presented by Mr. John Lister and Mr. Livingstone that the clergyman should reside in Rockwood. The minutes record that the offer was refused. It was Mr. Godden who had the bell put in which has ever since called the people to worship. In 1899 electric lighting was installed in the church. His rectorship of 7 years has been once since equalled but never surpassed in the history of the parish.

In 1902 came an aristocrat from the West Indies, unaccustomed to the rigors of Canadian life. Rev. Joseph Grayfoot Browne, who was here

for 3 years and returned on account of his w fe's health. He seems to have been the butt of a not always kindly amusement when he found it necessary to do things which life had never before called upon him to do. One night he emerged out of a snowstorm and knocked at a parishioner's door. He had lost his hat, he had lost his horse, he had lost h s way. "My word," he said, "the road was almost obliterated." In 1933 he was still vicar of the Church of the Holy Innocents, Barbadoes, to which he went from here in 1905. One wonders with what feelings he looks back upon his Canadian experiences.

His successor was a Scot, Rev. Matthew Wilson, who came here from Cheshire in 1905 and returned to Scotland in 1908. At the time of his death in 1922 he was priest in charge of St. Matthew's Church, Edinburgh, where he succeeded Rev. Arnold Brooks. Wh le here Mr. Wilson was ambitious to build a new church to replace the frame one, then 35 years old. They opened a bui d ng fund and a great three-day bazaar was held in the Town Hall on April 4th, 5th and 6th, 1907. Admission was by a small booklet called a catalogue—only 10c. It began at 3 p.m. each day. The booklet bears the name of H. P. Moore, Pr nter, Acton.

## Points of interest in the History of St. Alban's, Acton, St. John's, Rockwood, and Church of the Ascension, Eramosa

1849, July 18th, First marriage in the register. William Hawat of Guelph to Mary Eliza Moore of Eramosa.
1851. First register of baptism, Jane Strange.
1852. Rev. Edward Michael Stewart.
1859. First St. John's Church built (on the corner). Rev. C. H. Drinkwater, Farnham Pla ns, Rockwood and Eramosa.
1861. Church of the Ascension bu lt. Mission comprised Acton, Rockwood, Erin, Eramosa, Hillsburg and Garafraxa.
1863. Rev. R. I. Stewart. 1864, Rev. H. Stringfellow.
1865.-Rev. Johnstone Vicars. 1868, Rev. W. W. Bates. 1872, Rev. W. F. Swatlow.
1873. The miss on was divided, Rockwood, Acton and Eramosa remain.
1875. Church lot deeded to Synod and debt of church discharged, (Acton).
1876.—Rev. C. R. Lee, M.A. Church consecrated by the first Bishop of Niagara, Rt. Rev. Thomas Brock Fuller, D.C.L., (Acton).
1879. Rev. W. J. Pigott, 1883, Eramosa, (Church of the Ascension) separated from the mission, (church closed). Mr. Pigott built the present very handsome church at Rockwood. 1888, Rev. A. G. E. Westmacott.
1889. Rev. G. B. Cooke. 1895, Rev. J. K. Godden, M.A. The rectory enlarged and improved. 1902, Rev. J. G. Browne, M.A.
1905, 19th November, Rev. Matthew Wilson, M.A., (Glasgow), L.Th. (Durham).
1910. Rev. R. F. Kellerman. 1912, Rev. H. H. Wilkinson. 1915. Rev. C. H. E. Smith.
1918.—Rev. E. F. Maunsell. 1921, Rev. H. G. L. Baugh. 1926, Rev. Philip A. Sawyer.

1934 Rev Ed Brillinger 1938 Rev E A Brooks 1944 Rev E A Pulker
1948, 1949 and 1950 Rev W G Luxton

NOTES BY FRANK DAY

A son of Rev G B Cooke Heber married Florence Young a daughter of the late Mr and Mrs George Young and a sister of Mrs Arch McNabb and Mrs John McAlpine A sister of Rev P A Sawyer Mrs Wm Dunbar still resides in the village of Rockwood in 1950 After brilliant service as a padre in the war Rev E Brillinger was stationed at St James Guelph, until 1949 The wife of Rev E A Brooks Anne Sutherland of Guelph was well known as a poetess A brother of W G Luxton Rev G H Luxton, formerly of Guelph is now Bishop of Huron at London Strong supporters of St Johns Church for many years were J W Bowles a harnessmaker and an Englishman his son in law John Lister J P grandson of the pioneer Isaac Lister from Yorkshire and grandson of James Benham one of the Eramosa rebels The Lister family are descended from Sir Joseph Lister the famous physician J J Aldous J P who emigrated from Diss, Norfolk in his youth and served as Clerk of Eramosa and in many other capacities for many years F Lorne Linfoot C P R agent at Guelph who lives in Rockwood Fred S Hamilton for many years Road Supt on No 7 Highway Dr K B Waller J H Gibb Manager of The Royal Bank, and members of many other families including the Richardsons Stovels, Sockens Wares and Bernards

In 1945 St Johns and the Church of the Ascension cemeteries and a former Methodist cemetery at Lot 21 Conc 6 each contained a few headstones The 3 cemeteries were totally neglected and had been the subject of annual criticism by the Board of Health The Presbytery of Guelph appointed Rev M F Stewart Roy Leslie and Frank Day as trustees of the forgotten Methodist cemetery Mr J H Gibb was appointed to act for the Diocese of Niagara in connection with the 2 Anglican cemeteries Joint action was taken in 1945 to officially close the 3 cemeteries By arrangement with the Township Council and the Trustees of the Police Village of Rockwood all headstones were removed from the 3 cemeteries to Rockwood Village Cemetery and erected in a cement cairn for preservation Official action closing the three cemeteries is complete at this date March 1950 except for a few minor details Hon W E Hamilton of Guelph, Minister of Reformm institutions is assisting with the complicated provincial regulations concerning the closing of cemeteries the acting solicitor is Mr Chas McKinnon son of the former County Judge

In 1952 the whole village was shocked by the sudden death of Rev W G Luxton Rev Ralph E Price formerly Curate at St George's Church Guelph, was appointed to the vacant parish of Acton and Rockwood

## Roman Catholic Churches

There are two Roman Catholic Churches in the Township of Eramosa, St. Peter's at Oustic and the Church of The Sacred Heart in Rockwood. The original church at Oustic was a small frame building beside the cemetery a mile south of Oustic. Built in 1865 (or 66) the present fine stone church was built at the junction of the Eramosa and Speedside County roads. It was and still is a mission of the parish church under the administration of the Church of Our Lady of Guelph. Among the first priests attending both Oustic and Rockwood were Fathers MacDonald, Sinnott, Finegan and Doherty, the latter still remembered by older people. He was a man of fine voice and known from Detroit to the Maritimes as an outstanding orator. Later St. Peter's was joined with Acton and Georgetown. At the present time it is a Mission of the Rockwood church.

At the opening ceremonies of St. Peter's every pew was filled for many years there was a large attendance but gradually there was a shift in population and not many families remained. However the tide has turned and Oustic Church is again coming up. Below is a list of the surnames of some of the pioneer families: Melton, McCann, Hanson, Coulson, Beechner, O'Connor, Brandifield, McDermott, Synott, O'Donoghue, Hutcheon, Murnahan, Bowes, Latham, Murtaugh, McCarthy, Langford, Heffernan, Conley, Hogan, Talbot, McMahon, Coffee, Reavey. About the year 1884 the Catholics of Rockwood had the privilege of hearing Mass once a month in a room of an old log house belonging to a family named Moore, located near the railway tracks a little to the West of the former M. P. Barry warehouse. Here the late M. P. Barry served Mass as a young lad and here they worshipped for some time while working to raise money for a church. This was done by holding euchres and dances. Success crowned their efforts when they acquired the building which is now the Church of the Sacred Heart but which was then a blacksmith shop operated by a man named Andrew Warner. There was an upper storey to the building and very heavy beams had to be removed to make it suitable for a church. This was a dangerous proceeding for the men employed. William Gibbons and his sons Tom and Jim were engaged in this work. Four Gibbons brothers had come to this country from Ireland, one of them later went to the United States and became the father of the late Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore. Other descendants of this pioneer family are living in Acton and Rockwood. Among the later Pastors of the Rockwood Church were Fathers Quirk and Gleeson. On May 1st 1936 Rockwood became a parish with Rev. Fr. Francis P. Kehoe as resident parish priest. Under his direction much was done to improve and beautify the church. Fine glass memorial windows were donated by various families. James Berry, an uncle of Grattan Berry had given a chalice and sterling silver candelabrum.

Mrs. Henry Smith, a daughter of Rev. Edward Reeve, minister of the Rockwood Presbyterian Church from 1868 to 1874, when asked to become organist of Sacred Heart Church not only did so but gave her small but very fine pipe organ to the church. The first pews used were the old-fashioned kind with doors; they came from a church at Dublin, near Acton, which was dismantled. Father Kehoe was in charge when the hundred acre farm north of the village was acquired by the Roman Catholic Corporation

of Hamilton for a camp. Many buildings were erected and the river cleared and made suitable for swimming. Among the names of pioneer Rockwood Catholic families are found: Lynch, Kelly, Barry, Farrell, Gahan, Lee, Keough, Gibbons, Holman, McAleer, O'Donnell, Boland, Smith and Cummings. Rev. Fr. A. S. Callaghan, now in charge at Rockwood, is the second resident priest. He came from Dundalk in January, 1942.

## Mimosa Presbyterian Church

### Now Mimosa United Church, Lot 28, Eramosa, Town Line, Eramosa and Erin

For some years previous to 1864 pastoral oversight of the Presbyterians living in this locality was divided between Rev. Dr. Barrie of Eramosa and Rev. William Millican of Belwood (then Douglas). In an old Session register which I possess several baptisms are recorded as being performed by Rev. Wm. Millican in 1863. In 1864 a group of pioneers decided to proceed with the erection of a meeting house, its name being recorded in the charter or deed as "The Balmsville Meeting House". Who was responsible for this choice of a name is not known, but a list of those who were responsible for the founding of the church is given as follows: James, William and John Rea, James and William Torrance, Duncan McArthur, Robert Walker, Nathan McArthur, Robert Williamson, James Tookey, William Watson, Neil McDonald, the Smiths, Greens and Smalls. The site of the new church was donated by Neil and Margaret McDonald, the land being deeded with this stipulation: That the church should be exclusively composed of persons who hold and maintain the doctrine of the Shorter Catechism as promulgated by the Westminster divines. Only male members of the congregation of the age of twenty-one years or over were allowed the privilege of voting on questions which might arise in the local government of the church. There were at first but two elders, namely: William Torrance and William Watson. From 1864 until 1866, the new church, which was a frame structure with a very high ceiling, was supplied by various pastors and divinity students, among whom was Rev. Knowles, father of Rev. R. E. Knowles of the Toronto Star.

From 1866 to 1872, Rev. James Bowie was pastor of Everton and Mimosa congregations. The Everton charge was never very strong and it is surmised that it was about this time that a small group of Presbyterians there transferred their membership either to Rockwood or to Ospringe. Mimosa struggled along with student supply for three years and then a petition was sent to Presbytery praying that Mimosa and St. John's Church, Belwood, (then Douglas) should be joined under the pastorate of Rev. William Millican. This was granted and what proved to be a long and happy union was inaugurated with a special thanksgiving service. Two new elders were ordained at this time, John Scott and James Rea. A list of members at Mimosa in 1875 numbered 63. Of these, only five are now (1934) living: Peter McDonald, his sister Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. R. Scott (Ann Kennedy), Euphemia Wood and Mrs. James Grant.

In 1879, Robert Reid, John B. Rea and Neil McDonald were ordained to the eldership. Under the guidance of the saintly and well beloved pastor,

Rev Wm Mullican the congregation grew and prospered many members being added to the roll at each communion service Sometimes 17 or 18 young people would join the church at one time their names being duly recorded in the Session book Few churches escape having major or minor growing pains and two years previous (1878) trouble developed in St John's Church Belwood Some of the stalwarts there fell out with the minister and instead of staying away from church and sulking as many moderns do they strove to have a new preaching station established in the village with a pastor of their own choosing They carried their case to Presbytery but two Mimosa elders James Rea and William Torrence, managed to pour oil on the troubled waters and peace was restored Some of the dissentients at Belwood were cousins of the Reas and a few words of kindly advice brought harmony again between pastor and people This was the only time in 50 years that the union between St John's and Mimosa was disturbed by trouble of any sort Mr Mullican was becoming increasingly pressed and some of his entries in the Minute Book are scarcely legible He resigned in midsummer 1890 and the congregations extended a call to Rev Peter J McLaren Under Mr McLaren's pastorate several reforms were instituted An increased interest in missions a Christian Endeavour Society for the young people and a Women's Missionary Society were some of the innovations credited to the young minister In 1895 J H Reed and Thomas Entwistle were appointed to the eldership Some of the original members of the session had by this time passed to their eternal reward and the entries in the minute book recording their passing are beautiful tributes to their faithfulness and unswerving devotion to the church which they had seen grow from a small beginning to a well-established place of worship

Rev A W McIntosh succeeded Mr McLaren in 1900 His enthusiasm expository preaching and his interest in the young folks will long be remembered Rev J W McLeod was pastor from 1909 to 1912, followed by Rev D D Donald whose term lasted until 1919 Rev W H Booth was the last pastor to occupy the pulpits of St John's and Mimosa churches, the union of 1925 marking the severance of the bond which had happily united Belwood and Mimosa for exactly fifty years

The pastors at Mimosa since the coming of union in 1925 have been Rev W L Nichol 1925-26 Rev W H Summerell 1926-27 Rev R G Davison 1927-30 and Rev P W Spence who is the present minister The Elders who have been appointed since 1895 were Alex Wishart and William Rea, 1901 W H Rowan and James Grant 1903 Thomas Adsett, D Peden and S Gibson 1907 and some years later Herbert Scott and A D Farr Since union the Session has had as its members W Leslie Hugh Adsett, L Leslie F Cox James Hindley S Petty and W Gibson John Scott was an elder for 43 years from 1872 to his death in 1915 Session Clerks were Rev James Bowie Rev Wm Millican, John B Rea John Scott, W H Rowan A D Farr and Hugh Adsett

James Rea was the first church treasurer holding that office from 1864 to 1899 a period of 35 years Following him were George Hardie, D. McGregor, William Rea, James Grant, W H Rowan, George Wheeler, Fred Miller, Wesley Jessop and W M Grant Mimosa's share of stipends

paid was to Mr Millican, $220 00, to Mr McLaren, $325-00-$350 00. This raise was the result of a motion made at the annual meeting in 1894 by W Tookey and Mrs Humphrey Jessop. Rev A. W McIntosh received $450 00 By the year 1919 Mimosa was contributing $700 00 to the minister's salary

The first Sunday School superintendent was W Tookey, Sr , followed by Wm Gray John Scott Herbert Scott W Leslie and Hugh Adsett Choir Leaders were Robt Williamson Weaver Shaw, Fitzsimmons, John Scott, Herbert Scott W M S Presidents have been Mrs Robert Reid, Mrs. Humphrey Jessop Mrs Peter McDonald, Mrs Thos Entwistle, Mrs James Grant, Mrs W H Rowan Mrs Robert Wheeler and Mrs G A Hamilton. In 1893 a Ladies Aid was active in raising money for a local church purpose but its officers are unknown

The original frame church and sheds occupied a plot 40x75 feet on the Neil McDonald farm After 20 years of use the Trustees decided that a church was a necessity, the old one being small and extremely hard to heat owing to the high ceiling Accordingly, in the year 1884, a plot of ground was purchased (probably for the sum of $ 00) from Peter McGregor, and the contract for the erection of a stone building was let to Charles Casani a young Italian Hugh McDonald of Belwood did the woodwork The corner stone was laid on July 24th and that Autumn the building was dedicated as a place of worship special services on Sunday, followed by a tea meeting on Monday marking the event In 1892, the original sheds which were back of the frame church were replaced by a larger building This was built on the West corner of the Smith homestead The Ladies Aid by holding annual picnics in McGregor's bush, some of which brought total receipts of $153 00, was able to assist in paying for the new building About this time (1893), Miss Rachel Scott and Rev McLaren were appointed a committee to prepare and publish financial reports for the first time weekly contribution envelopes were introduced in 1894 The sheds mentioned above had been built by Jerry Coulson carpenter and James Wilson mason An up-to-date and comfortable closed shed replacing the cold, drafty structure built in 1892, was built by George Mack

Most churches have to borrow money when new buildings are in course of construction and this church has had to borrow on various occasions but not for long James Rea, who was treasurer in the early nineties had to find money somewhere His friend, Maurice Murphy, a good Irishman and a Catholic loaned the church board a sum of money which provided the wherewithall to buy material for the sheds W H Rowan, at that time a young school teacher at Awrey's School also loaned $140 00 to help along the good work By the year 1894 these debts had all been paid and from that time the church property has never carried a debt for more than a few months Some of the treasurers in the late 90's must have given the auditors considerable worry, for one auditor's statement says "Audited and found correct, with the exception of 39c." Upon another occasion a more serious error was found, for it was moved and seconded at the annual meeting "That the auditors go over the treasurer's book again and see if they can find why the difference of $12 50 arises."

Here is a copy of an entry in the Session book made in the year 1893 "Moved by John B. Rea, seconded by James Rea, that the Session having learned that Mr So-and-So, a member of this church, intends having a dance at his place on Friday night, preparatory to Communion, that the Session express its disapproval of such as being detrimental to the cause of Christ in this locality, and that the pastor at the close of the preparatory service urge upon all young persons the necessity of keeping away from such a gathering The motion was carried."

A perusal of these old records serves to remind us once more of the piety and zeal of our pioneer forefathers. They strove earnestly to do their Master's work and like St Paul, they exercised themselves to have consciences void of offence toward God and man May we, by observing this 70th anniversary of the founding of our church, keep their memory green and may we also strive to uphold and maintain the church which they, by the grace of God, were enabled to establish at Mimosa in the year 1864.

### THE REA CEMETERY

The little cemetery which is situated on the East corner of the James Rea homestead was commenced in the same year as the Presbyterian Church The first burial was that of George Bailey in April, 1864 The two original elders of the church rest there William Torrance died in 1879 and William Watson in 1884 Of the original board of cemetery trustees, Peter McDonald of North Dakota alone survives Most of the early pioneers of the district who were members of the Presbyterian Church rest there. The Smiths, McDonalds, and McLellans were Highland Scotch while the Torrances, Browns and Watsons were natives of Edinburgh, Berwick or Roxboroughshire.

—W. Melvin Grant

## Historical Sketch

### Mimosa Methodist Church, 1860—1925—1934. W½ Lot 28, Con. 2, Township of Erin

The early pioneers of the Mimosa district knew that clearing the land, growing enough wheat to keep them from being hungry and erecting dwellings for man and beast were not enough to bring happiness and contentment They knew that "man cannot live by bread alone" and so we are not surprised to learn that they did not neglect the spiritual side of their natures while caring for their bodily needs Religious services were first held in the little log houses, then in the school houses, Orange lodges, and even in the inns which were so plentiful when Canada was young. Ministers from the older settlements would visit the newer communities and wherever enough people could be found to form a group or nucleus of a congregation, a church would be founded Many of the settlers in the Mimosa locality were of the Methodist faith and we learn that they were holding religious services before 1860 in a little log building on Jessop's farm, and also in the school on the North corner of the Gideon Awrey farm where W Overland now lives. In the year 1860 this small but courageous group which included William Cox, Peter Mathews, Levi Allan, John Grasley, Gideon Awrey, and Humphrey Jessop, purchased a

quarter of an acre of land from John Small for the sum of $25.00, and upon this lot a frame church was erected the same year enough land being left to commence the cemetery. (Miss Ada Currie states that John Small lived to be 104 years old. The eight ministers who preached the gospel to this rapidly growing congregation from 1860 to 1890 were Messrs. Smith, Lynch, Cooper, Thurston, Dargavel, Watt, Walker and Harris.

In 1890 the frame building was taken down and a brick building, with a basement and furnace, was erected on the same site. Trustees at that time were John Grasley, John Morris and Nathaniel Reed. The dedication of this church was followed by a large picnic attended by practically everyone in the locality. The best of feeling and neighbourliness between the three churches of the sidesaddle prevailed. (The third church mentioned here by Mr. Grant must be the Disciples church at the corner of the second line meeting three churches in a row within the mile.)

Mimosa Methodists were at first associated with the Stone Church, Eramosa Centre, and Bethel Church at the corner of the 6th line of Eramosa on the Hindley farm. Later they were linked with the Grove Church and Victoria in East Gwillimbury. The Orton Church was added to the circuit in 1901. Prior to 1888 John Grasley led the singing but in that year an organ was purchased and Miss Martha Reed was appointed organist. William Toohey was the first choir leader, the original members being Sarah Lowrey, Sarah Morris, Margaret Sanderson, Emma Reed, Minnie Morris, Annie Lowrey, Margaret Jessop, John A. Morris, Robert Gray, Arthur Langford and Leonard Awrey. It is interesting to note that the first leader of the Methodist choir was a Presbyterian and the first Superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday School was a Methodist in the person of William Gray. This was typical of the friendly feeling which existed between the two churches throughout their entire history. On a blustery February evening in 1905 the caretaker piled the wood high in the basement furnace of the church, knowing that those who came from a distance to attend the Sunday evening service would appreciate the warmth that would be provided. Whether the drafts were left too wide open or whether the strong East wind acted like a bellows to catch fire will never be known, but whatever it was the church took fire and in a few minutes the Ernest Fire, which was only 15 years old, was a mass of flames. Early that same Spring plans were made for the rebuilding of the church, the Trustees being John Reed, Thomas Lowery, John Morris, W. J. Awrey, James Jessop, Wesley Jessop and Leonard Awrey. The walls were built of Milton pressed brick. With Robertson and Carlisle as bricklayers and Alex Hyndman doing the carpenter work. Re-opening services were held late in the Summer, the new and beautiful church being dedicated as a house of worship by Rev. Dr. Carman, at that time General Superintendent of the Methodist Church in Canada. Ministers from 1890 to 1905 were Messrs. Farr, Grandy, Nicholson and Whitworth. From 1905 to 1925 Messrs. Shepperson, Kaye, Cole, Lovegrove, Abbot, Smith, Hyde, Waite, Stokes and Douglas.

During the first quarter of the present century nearly all the churches in rural Ontario were feeling the effects of the process of depopulation which was taking place as a result of the Western Provinces calling so

many farmers from their old homesteads. Dwindling congregations made financing a serious problem and Church Union seemed to offer a fair way out. In 1925 the Mimosa Methodists decided to cast in their lot with their good friends and neighbours, the Mimosa Presbyterians and the Bethel Methodists. The Mimosa Methodist Church which they loved so well was left empty as far as living worshippers go, but full of sacred memories of the times when the gospel of Christ was preached with power by the faithful ministers of the church and through the 65 years of its existence. The sacred building stands like a sentinel guarding the graves of the pioneers who sleep in the little cemetery nearby. Its spire points to Heaven, mutely reminding us that here we have no continuing city. The founders of this little church strove earnestly to hold high the banner of the Cross. May we follow in their train.

W. MELVIN GRANT

The Mimosa Methodist Church of which Mr. Grant wrote in 1934 is about one mile across the County Road in to the Township of Erin but many of its members were evidently residents of the Township of Eramosa and finally its congregation joined with Mimosa Presbyterian Church which is in the Township of Eramosa to form a charge in the United Church of Canada. Consequently, Mr. Grant's history of Mimosa Methodist Church is necessary to ensure the proper grounding for a history of the present Mimosa United Church in the United Church of Canada.

After 1925 Mimosa United Church became part of the Orton charge along with Marsville. One active minister was Rev. A. L. Atton whose specialty was the improvement of church buildings. During his pastorate, the writer and his wife were driving along the town line and noticed remodelling in progress at Mimosa Church. We decided to look inside and found two workmen in shirt sleeves and overalls busy at the interior. I readily recognised one of them as Mr. John Clow. In conversation with the other he revealed that he was the minister and told of the way that he and members of the congregation were remodelling the old stone church into a modern up-to-date church with class rooms, basement, etc. I believe Hydro has reached Mimosa this year so doubtless the church is now fully equipped. Dr. J. S. Duncan, a former Rockwood resident, followed Mr. Atton as pastor. His sudden death while Conference was in session in 1948 resulted in a call to Miss Erla M. Currey and Mimosa became the first church in Eramosa to have a lady ordained minister in full charge. The first recorded marriage ceremony performed by a lady in Eramosa is registered on January 18th, 1949. Howard Raymond Earle Smith to Isabel Shirley McKenzie, married on January 15th, 1949, in the Township of Eramosa by Rev. Erla M. Currey, Orton, Ont.

An incident indirectly connected with Mimosa United Church might be recorded. As Clerk of Eramosa Township it was my duty for years to conduct the annual nomination meeting at Rockwood for elections to council and school board. On occasions the nomination meeting for Erin Township at Hillsburgh was held on a day other than that of the Eramosa meeting and I enjoyed driving to the Erin nomination partly as a neighbour and partly to see how such affairs were conducted in Erin Township. It was the custom at the Erin nomination meeting for all who had been nominated and who were present to take seats on the platform. At one of

these meetings after a winter of badly blocked snow roads, there was a big line-up on the platform, not so many with intentions of being a candidate but several who had been nominated in order to obtain a chance to discuss township affairs. In this particular instance the chief criticism was of impassable snow roads. It happened that for the previous year or two, Eramosa had arranged to snowplow practically all township roads, while Erin with its larger area had not yet started such a program. These circumstances naturally gave rise to the question "If Eramosa farmers can drive cars all winter why cannot Erin farmers?" Robert Rowan was prominent in the debate for better winter roads and in most picturesque language, he declared that during some of the winter, even a mountain goat could not find a path up the First Line. He said "I attend Mimosa Church and half the congregation comes from Eramosa we in Erin wade a team through that snow on a frosty morning, clad in fur coats and caps and arrive at Mimosa Church covered with frost, snow, hayseeds and horsehair, looking like grizzly bears." Then, he said, "We are greeted by Eramosa farmers, who step unruffled out of their heated cars, dressed in light coats and hats like city folks."

Mimosa has played its part in municipal and school affairs in Eramosa. One resident, John Rea, was known as Father of the Council, owing to his long record of municipal service. He died when over 90 and I recall his white beard as he was asked to say a few words at a nomination meeting in his old age. His son John was also a Councillor, as were Thomas Cox and Fred Cox, father and son. Hugh Adsett was a member for the first three years of the Eramosa Township School Board. George Foote and Roy I. Leslie each served on the council and were connected with Bethel or Mimosa churches at some time.

Thomas Cox, J.P., mentioned above, was known for his ready wit and his liking for a lively joke. When horse-drawn vehicles were in common use, it was usual for the better hotels in most towns and cities to provide small buses to meet incoming trains. This advertised the hotel and provided welcome convenience for travelers who intended to stay at that particular hotel particularly if the weather was stormy or the baggage was heavy. These buses were usually one-horse affairs with the driver perched on a box seat at the front. It is said that Thomas Cox alighted from the train at Toronto and was accosted by the driver of the King Edward Hotel bus. "King Edward, Sir?" "No," replied Mr. Cox, "I'm Thomas Cox from Eramosa."

## Stone United Church

In the early days, Methodism in Canada, so far as its government was concerned, took on Methodist Episcopal form. This was perfectly natural, for its preachers were commissioned by the American Bishops, and until 1832 were under their jurisdiction. In 1874 the Wesleyans, Primitive Methodists and Methodist New Connexion united into one body and took the name, Methodist Church in Canada. The Methodist Episcopal Church remained separate until 1883 when it united with the Methodist Church in Canada. Eramosa Methodist Episcopal Church, now called Stone Church, was dedicated (according to the record on the stone over the door) to

God's service in the year 1862 as a M E church and was known as Stone Methodist Church. With the union of the Presbyterian, Congregational and Methodist Churches in 1925, it became known as Stone United Church of the Rockwood charge.

The first church was erected on the north west corner of the present cemetery grounds. It was a frame structure, a humble dwelling, but it meant much to those faithful people who worshipped there. As most of the early settlers in this district were United Empire Loyalists, it was only natural that their first church should be named the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The land on which it was built was donated by Mr. John Loree, great-grandfather of Mr. Len Loree of Guelph. John Loree's tombstone lies flat on the ground at the front of the cemetery just to the right of the church, and the fact that he donated the land is inscribed on the stone. His brother, Hezekiah Loree, grandfather of Mr. James Loree, a member of the present congregation, died in the year 1833 and was the first to be buried in the little churchyard. Mrs. Pettit tells of hearing her mother, Lydia Murray Plester, often speak of the times she came up from where she lived at the Benham home to attend services in the little frame church. The first man to minister to this pioneer congregation was an Irishman by the name of Rev. John Smith. During the years of his early pastorate his stable was burned and also his horse, but the congregation rose to the occasion and provided the minister with a new horse and other necessary equipment. Martha Stout, now Mrs. James Loree, a beloved member of the present congregation, received infant baptism at the hands of Rev. John Smith. In 1862 the Stone Church as we have known it was built. Rev. John Smith had the honour of being still their minister when the congregation began to worship in the new church. He was succeeded by Rev. Cook, a painter by trade, whose hand work may still be seen in some of the older dwellings of the community.

In the year 1871 the Eramosa Circuit was formed, consisting of Bethel, Mumosa and Stone Church, with the parsonage at the last named appointment. During the years of this Circuit's life, many happy friendships were formed. The Communion service, which at that time was known as the quarterly meeting or Sacrament Sunday, was held at the one church of the circuit and the other two churches joined with her in this sacred event. The Christian fellowship experienced in these joint services and in the homes of the friends visited are still often mentioned by those who were a part of them.

The first minister of the new circuit was Rev. Findlay Malcolm Smith who remained for three years. The Reverends Lynch and Cooper followed in turn. In the year 1880 the Rev. Thurston became the minister, it is interesting to know that Mrs. Surerus, (nee Ella Stapleton) of the Guelph district is a granddaughter of the Rev. Thurston and taught school for some time near the church where her grandfather had preached nearly forty years before. Rev. Durkee next took over pastoral duties. His successor was Rev. Watts with a family of twelve. The Rev. Walker had charge of the circuit for the years 1886-1889, Mr. Walker, his five boys and their mother

seem to be well remembered by some of the church's older members and are spoken of as a very good-living happy family. The Rev. Farr followed Mr. Walker but remained only a year on the circuit. In these early days the leader of song was a Mr. Cospell who lived where Mr. Hopkin's home is now. When a church organ was first mentioned some of the older members were opposed thinking it was away from the real spirit of worship but the organ was purchased. It is said that when it was first played Mr. Cospell could often be heard whispering to himself "Too fast, too fast." Mr. Scarrow, grandfather of Mrs. James Oakes of Guelph, came early to church and used to love to sit in the family pew and sing over the old hymns until the congregation had gathered.

During these years a lay preacher by the name of Mr. Hodgkinson did much good in the Stone Church, supplying in the place of the busy pastor who had to travel over often bad roads to his three appointments. It is said that Mr. Hodgkinson's reading of one of Talmage's sermons was as helpful as lots of sermons prepared and delivered by a regular minister. Many descendants of the late Mr. Hodgkinson still reside in this district. Rev. Farr was succeeded by the Rev. Harris. Mrs. Harris was the daughter of a missionary to India and because of her interest in missions she was responsible for the organization of the first missionary society of the Stone Church. Rev. Noble followed Mr. Harris and while it is a matter of regret that the missionary work undertaken by Mr. Harris was disbanded improvements were made in Mr. Noble's pastorate. Up to this time each family pew was furnished with a door which was closed upon the family's entrance to the pew. The pulpit was also very bounded by doors etc. Mr. Noble had these removed. The Reverends Grandy, Sanderson and Sharp were the pastors in turn from the years 1893 to 1901. During Mr. Grandy's pastorate it was decided to move Mimosa to another circuit and Everton was made a sister church of Bethel and Stone. In 1901 the Rev. Brand became pastor of the church and remained three years. Mr. Brand is living at present in Hamilton and is still interested in the Stone Church.

The Rev. George Smith was the next minister. He is since deceased but his widow lives at this time in Beamsville and has sent her best wishes. The Rev. Sanderson followed Mr. Smith. It was in the year 1909 that Rev. and Mrs. Woltz came to the Eramosa circuit. The young minister and his wife opened their home to the congregation. Mr. Woltz sang well and shared his talents freely. A few years before his death he came back to his former charge and took Anniversary services, he and his wife remaining over for the Monday night entertainment. Mrs. Woltz was also back some years later as a guest speaker at a missionary rally at the church. The Rev. Craig was Mr. Woltz's successor but remained for only a year. In the year 1914, the first year of the Great War, the Rev. Aquila Evans and Mrs. Evans took over their duties at the Stone Church personage. Mr. and Mrs. Evans and family made many friends. It was under the able and kindly leadership of Mrs. Evans that the first Women's Association or "Ladies Aid," as it was then called, was formed. Mrs. Evans had not long moved from this circuit when she passed into higher service, leaving her daughter Hazel (now Mrs. Wilfred Scott, Woodbridge) as the mother in the family and helpmate to her father and two sons, Lorne (now of Guelph) and

Dwight (now of Walkerton) Mr Evens death occurred a few years ago during his retirement in Erin Village

In the year 1916 a bright young Christian enthusiast Rev W A Cook was given charge of the circuit When he first came he still attended college part time in Toronto He and his young wife led in a very pleasant pastorate It looked as if there was a great future for the young clergyman but his Father had other plans for him and when he was in charge of a circuit in Bruce County some years later he was suddenly called to a higher appointment A short time before his death Mr Cook was back to the Stone Church to take anniversary services and hearts were warmed as the congregation met again the young minister they so loved Mrs Cook's home is in Brantford and she plans to be present at the re-opening services (1947) Rev Cook was succeeded by Rev A C Eddy During this pastorate Everton Church was closed and Rockwood entered the circuit with Bethel and the Stone Church Mr Eddy still very interested in the Stone Church and he and Mrs Eddy have sent greetings from Hamilton where Mr Eddy is assistant minister to Rev Capt Norman Rawson at Centenary Church Rev A C Eddy died in 1950 Rev Roy M Geiger and Mrs Geiger took over the work of the Rockwood Circuit at the time of their marriage and they have very happy memories of their pastorate here It was during Mr Geiger's ministry that the W M S was formed The Epworth League and the choir was the center for his Christian enthusiasm and the congregation have memories of him stepping over from the pulpit to the choir to sing the favourite numbers When my soul reaches home etc

At this time the new parsonage was built in Rockwood and Mr and Mrs Geiger moved from the Stone Church parsonage to their new home The new parsonage was not built without opposition from the country congregation who were reluctant to see their minister and his family move away But the old order changeth giving place to new and the "new parsonage" in Rockwood has stood out with distinction in the Guelph Presbytery Rev and Mrs Geiger have been back to the Stone Church on several occasions and have always received a hearty welcome Rev Geiger's son Gordon a student for the ministry supplied during July 1946 (He was ordained in 1948 and stationed at Reston Sask for two years being called to Creighton Mines a charge in Sudbury Presbytery in 1950) The position which Rev R M Geiger holds as President of Hamilton Conference and the close intimacy there has been between him and the Stone Church makes it seem reasonable that he should be chosen as guest minister at the Re-opening and Dedicatory services May 11th 1947 Rev John A Dills succeeded Mr Geiger in 1924 he was the last Methodist pastor Rev Alexander Donaldson a former Presbyterian was the first minister in charge following union in 1925 Rockwood and Stone Church were organized into a two-point charge remaining in that condition for a quarter of a century Rev and Mrs Donaldson were from Scotland they returned there in 1929 The second pastor following union was Rev Will J Taylor, (8 years) followed by Rev P H Lawson (4 years) Rev John Ward, (7 years) and Rev (Major) John W Oliver 1948-49 50

During the years 1862 1946 the Stone Church carried on the work of God in the community and strangers worshipping in the little country

church admired its simplicity. However, there was felt by the members a growing need for more space for Sunday School Rooms, for Young People's work and for congregational gatherings. Ministers and members had dreamed of a remodelled church but it was the late Mrs. A. L. Stevens (Mary Loree) who first helped make these dreams become a reality. In frequent visits with her family here she made inquiries as to the Stone Church and expressed her desire to give some amount at her death that could be used in a way that would be a permanent help in the Church's work. In the year 1943 the church received $2500.00 to be divided between the church and the cemetery. A special meeting voted that $700.00 be laid aside for cemetery use and the balance be used on the church as the first subscription to the building fund. At the annual meeting in December 1945 a building committee was appointed, consisting of two elders, two stewards and two members of the Young People's Society.

In January of 1946 the first bee was held when the building was emptied of all seats, flooring etc. and preparations made for the workmen to put in the basement. The concrete work and the painting was done by paid workmen but every other part of the entire job was done by men and women of the congregation who gave of their time freely in this great work. In the congregation were a few men who were especially skilled in fine carpentry, etc. and had it not been for their constant and faithful work, their good leadership and equipment, the work could not have been accomplished as it was. This leadership under the chairmanship of Mr. Fred Duffield with the splendid co-operation of the congregation made what might have been a very difficult task an enriching experience. Mrs. Roy Van Wie (Anna Loree), in memory of her parents the late James and Lucy Loree gave to the church the Hammond Electric organ, which with several other gifts of the congregation was dedicated at the re-opening service on May 11th, 1947. With modern pews, heating, lighting and congregational facilities, the Stone Church is second to none in rural Ontario.

## The History of Barrie Hill Church, 1832-1942

By Rev. E. G. Dale

Our church received the name of "The First Presbyterian Church in Eramosa." Upon union of the Presbyterian bodies in 1844, the name became "The United Presbyterian Church in Eramosa", and in 1861, "The First Canada Presbyterian Church of Eramosa". This became "The First United Church of Eramosa" in 1925 but the name of Dr. William Barrie is so closely linked with its history and the location so significant, that it is commonly called "Barrie Hill United Church". In the year 1830, Rev. A. Bell visited the upper end of Eramosa, and found 21 families who wished to be ministered to by The Presbyterian Church, promising to contribute from 60 to 75 Pounds for such services. The congregation was organized in 1832 and in 1834, Rev. Charles Nichol was settled as the first minister, for 2 years. A frame church structure was erected by volunteer laborers on the site of the present church shed.

On June 16th, 1838, the first minute appears on the records of the Session, as follows: "The petition from the people of Eramosa to The Mis-

sionary Presbytery of the Canadas in connection with the United Associate Synod Scotland "We the members of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church in Eramosa and in the name of the people of Eramosa do hereby request that you would be pleased to take us into connection with your church and to grant us such supply of Preaching as your engagements will allow We may say that we are literally without the public ordinances of God not having had any Preaching on a Sabbath for the last 7 months There are 21 members and between 30 and 40 who regularly attend and who we hope will ultimately become members Signed William and Thomas Armstrong and Wm Lochrin Elders"

In answer to this petition Rev Thomas Christie of West Flamboro, met with the congregation on August 2nd 1838 and after preaching from Gal 2 16 received them into connection with the United Associate Secession Church The first members were Robt and Elizabeth Robinson, James Nancy and Thomas Lochrin Jane Ferem Sarah Peters John and Catharine Rea George Margaret and Fanny Armstrong Thomas and Elizabeth Dryden John and William Wood James and Ann McCulloch Robert and Agnes Scott John Burkart and wife James Craig James Smith On January 4th 1843 Rev Wm Barrie recently from Scotland was ordained to the office of the holy ministry and minister of the charge For a time, he also served the Irvine Settlement at Elora He was a wise and able leader who combined a knowledge of medicine with his theological learning His strong doctrinal sermons stressed man's ruin by the fall man's redemption through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ by faith sanctification through the Holy Spirit In his pastoral work he showed a great love for the young visiting all the nearby schools and examining the scholars very carefully The Lord's Supper was dispensed every 6 months preceded by a preparatory service Lead Tokens were given out by the Elders to be returned at the Communion New members were subject to examination in the Catechism The congregation stood for the prayers often half an hour in length Church worship fed their souls and prepared them for the hardships of pioneer life

In 1847 the membership had increased to 100 In that year during Dr Barrie's absence in Scotland the first manse was built on the lot adjoining the present commodious brick manse This is situated on the glebe of 50 acres and was built in 1874 The present large stone church was built in 1860 and stands as a monument to the sacrifice of the pioneers.

By 1852 the average attendance was 200 with 130 members on the roll 55 attended Prayer Meeting There were 400 volumes in the Library including a Hebrew Bible The stipend of 88 Pounds was raised by the rental of seats, which were auctioned off to the highest bidder

Various controversial issues arose The first sung book contained the Psalms with the Paraphrases but no hymns Instrumental music was unanimously disapproved In answer to inquiries as to the state of religion, the Session invariably reported a favourable spiritual condition but urged to vigorous exercise of self-control and spiritual activity in all the business of the Christian life The family altar was observed in the majority of homes morning and evening Dr Barrie retired in 1877, when the congre-

gation voted him a retiring allowance of $200 a year. During his ministry 350 persons united with the church. His resting place in Woodlawn Cemetery, Guelph, is marked with a tall shaft of Scotch granite bearing the following tribute: "Sacred to the memory of Rev. William Barrie, D.D., for upwards of 34 years pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Eramosa. Died July 26th, 1879, age 80 years. A good scholar, a faithful friend, a devoted pastor and an earnest preacher of the gospel."

Rev. Dr. Smythe was Dr. Barrie's successor for 4 years, death closing his ministry in 1881. Rev. Angus McKay was called in 1883, serving for 3 years. During his ministry, the tea meeting was first accepted, then rejected as a means of raising money for the Lord's work. The Session put itself on record as practising and recommending total abstinence. Only church members were admitted to the choir. Rev. John Gardiner accepted a call in 1887. The Jubilee sermons were preached by Rev. Dr. Caven, when 230 members partook of the Lord's Supper. Mr. Gardiner retired in 1889 owing to ill health, but his spiritual ministries left a lasting mark on the congregation. In '89 Rev. J. B. Marsh, later an astronomer of note, became minister for 2 years. The use of The Presbyterian Hymnal was begun. His successor was Rev. W. D. Wilkie, during whose office of 4 years it was decided to have an organ to help with the worship in the church. Rev. A. J. Mann accepted a call in February, 1899, remaining for 7 years. The membership was 232. A minute in the Session book stresses the harmony which has prevailed, the spiritual progress made, and the unfailing tact and courtesy of this Christian leader. Rev. John Moir ministered for 5 years. The 75th. Anniversary was observed in 1907. Dr. Torrance, of Guelph, who had known the congregation for 62 years, and Dr. Kilpatrick, of Toronto, were the preachers. The former read a valuable historical sketch, prepared for The Presbyterian, and arranged by himself and Mr. George Wood, long an Elder and Session Clerk.

Rev. William Tate, who served only 6 months, was followed by Rev. George Milne for 3 years, Rev. William Kay, 5 years, Rev. W. A. McWilliams, 3 years. These prepared the way for the aggressive evangelistic pastorate of Rev. John Little, who became minister in 1923. Serving in the years of Church Union, he lead his people with vision and foresight for five years. Speedside Church, formerly Congregational, came into the union and under his care, and is still part of the pastoral charge. Rev. John Robertson was settled in 1928, continuing for 9 years, the second 10 year pastorate. He was a wise pastor, a loyal leader, a consecrated Christian, whose influence still abides. In 1937 the 100th. anniversary was observed. The preacher, Rev. Robert Taylor, a son of the congregation, whose text was "Compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses." A historical sketch was read by Mrs. John Marshall. A model of the church adorned the supper table. Many of the older members were present, recalling earlier days. Rev. Geo. I. Stephenson became minister in 1937 for 2 years. Under his leadership it was decided to use the new United Church Hymnary. The consecration of Mr. Stephenson and his family gave the church a new uplift in its worship of praise. The present pastor, Rev. Earle G. Dale, was inducted in 1939, and pays tribute to a loyal band of church workers. In 1941 the church edifice was redecorated, a new carpet and organ pur-

chased, and the close of the enterprise found a substantial balance in the funds.

The Church began a Sabbath School in the early days of her history. Mr Joseph Wood was Superintendent from 1847 to 1883 Contributions to Missionary Causes were taken from the beginning The Auxiliary of the W.F.M.S. was organized in 1886 and has functioned continuously Our present W.A. was formed in 1939 but various organizations had preceded it The Young People's Society was organized in 1937 but it, too, had its predecessors The choir still maintains the high standards set by the precenters of early days Mr Walter Scott is especially recalled because of his long tenure of office and his ability with the tuning fork

Not far from the church is the well kept Union Cemetery, commonly called Johnston's Cemetery, organized since 1874 Here lie, amid beautiful surroundings the men and women who contributed so much to the progress of both church and community

In the great war of 1914 1918, this church had 30 names on its Honor Roll So far in the present conflict, 13 names have been added each man has received a gift from the church and the organizations keep up a steady flow of boxes to those overseas

The membership of the church is now 218 Thus the small group of 24 in 1838 has grown in influence and power through the blessing of Almighty God The pioneers have been called to higher service Many have gone into other churches to serve their Lord Those who remain loyally carry on the work committed to their care Large worshipful congregations continued additions to membership, faithful stewardship, give hope of rich spiritual blessing in the years which lie ahead.

The writer, now a minister of the church, is greatly indebted to those who have written previous historical sketches, as well as to the complete Minutes of Session since 1853

NOTES BY FRANK DAY Rev E G Dale went to Fullerton in 1948 and was followed at Barrie Hill by Rev W R Buchanan The Johnston Cemetery mentioned above, is a most in the centre of Lot 20, Con 2 the road there running through the middle of the lot, instead of running between Lots 20 and 21 Several bridges would have been necessary if the road had been laid out in the usual way This was Capt Archie Johnston's farm, he is given credit for planting most of the hedges and trees that go far toward making this one of the most beautiful cemeteries He was a brother of Dr James Johnston who was born in Eramosa and practised medicine in Millbank from 1859 to 1908 His fees were pretty much what people chose to pay him and when he retired from practice his unpaid book accounts amounted to about $30 000 00 He married Jane Gilbert in 1863, and unsuccessfully contested North Perth in the Federal Election of 1888 He died in Millbank on August 2nd and was buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery there.

Dr A. E Byerly, the well known historian of Guelph, has this to say of Eramosa Eramosa has had a very interesting church history, Elder

James Black was one of the first preachers in the township and the Barrie Hill Church dates back to 1826 or thereabouts when Mr Black conducted services In 1843 Dr William Barrie began the ministry which lasted many years in Eramosa

The Historical Atlas of Wellington County says About the year 1826 the settlers of the township feeling the want of public ordinances of religion met at the house of Mrs McCormack and invited Mr Black to preach for them and for a considerable time Mr Black preached every two weeks to the people of the township For some time after Mr Black left the people of the settlement had very little preaching It is recorded that Mr Black s services were much valued at a time because while entertaining the greatest respect for Mr Black personally and highly appreciating his piety and labours the great majority of the settlers were not in accord with his views on the ordinance of baptism It appears probable that Elder James Black was trying to organise a congregation of Disciples at this time for these settlers who met at Mrs McCormick s home were not all Presbyterians Within a few years the Presbyterians were established about a mile up the road while the Disciples were established about a mile down the road at Eramosa West The Congregationalists too met in Mrs Abigail McCormick s home in 1845 and it is revealed that Mrs McCormick herself was a member of the Congregational Church at Guelph Later the Congregationalists apparently divided and established the First Church at Knibbs (later Kribs Cribbs and Cripps Settlement (Eden Mills) and the Second Church at Speedside leaving the Barrie Hill and Four Corners district to the Presbyterians and Disciples

Mrs McCormick seems to have been a live wire in the early days She lived on the West half of Lot 17 Concession 2 on the present County Road the farm now occupied by Mr Oliver Thring McCormick s Cemetery at the front of the farm is about the oldest in the township There were many burials there but in 1926 it was stated at an Eramosa Council meeting that no burials had taken place for 40 years At that time (1926) it was a disgrace many bodies had been moved to Johnston s Cemetery the emptied graves had not been properly filled in grave-hog holes were everywhere weeds and brush covered the site Attempts were made to have the Council take it over I remember inspecting it with Reeve Arch McNabb it was almost impossible to walk through the rubbish without falling into a sunken or re-opened grave Some plot-holders objected to levelling the land and eventually interested parties made a good job of cleaning levelling etc and erecting ornamental gateposts Messrs Albert Lush and Roland Dodds were very active in this commendable task

It was on Mrs McCormick s property that the first No 2 School was built by private effort before the start of organized education in Eramosa It was a strategic spot half way up the township for Presbyterians Disciples Baptists and Congregationalists to attempt organization of congregations James Black was probably a Scotch Baptist at the time they were known as "Glassites" or "Sandemenians" and had broken from the Church of Scotland believing in immersion and in independent or Congregational government It was in 1831 or 1832 when James Black s congregation in

Eramosa East changed to the name Disciples. This congregation united with Eramosa Centre in 1861 after the big meeting in Rockwood in 1860 when 4000 attended. Everton congregation was then organised the Mother Church of The Disciples of Christ in Canada.

In some places Scotch Baptists united with English Baptists. Disciple records quote them as having gone over to the Regular Baptists. Mostly however Scotch Baptists became Disciples. It is really true that Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Scotch and English Baptists were very closely related at the time Mr. Black was preaching at Mrs. W[illegible]m's. Disciples were just being born largely through the efforts of Elder James Black. Barrie Hill is one of the very few places where James Black did not fully succeed. He was successful at Eramosa East, Eramosa Centre, Eramosa West, Everton, Erin Centre, Brockville and other places. It is believed that it was at Eramosa East, the church at his own farm gate, that he really conceived or developed the particular concepts that became the fundamental part of the Disciples of Christ. It is recorded too that the first Disciples in Eramosa considered all Christians as brethren and "they are very desirous of avoiding any approach to sectarianism." Apparently they had a commendable idea of a united protestant church but the idea did not go across with all the settlers and the gathering at Mrs. McCormick's exploded in the centre to form 1 Presbyterian, Disciple and 2 Congregational churches. The Eramosa West Disciple Church was apparently later absorbed by Guelph and the First Congregational at Eden Mills vanished probably also absorbed by Guelph. Barrie Hill and Speedside continue. The later Everton congregation had an unusually large number of outstanding Christian men who spread their doctrines far and wide and who always played a major part in municipal and school government in the township. The Blacks alone collectively gave 114 years of able municipal service to the township. Other very active men were Wm. Oliphant, Clerk, James Mitchell, Reeve, Clerk and Treasurer, Robert Boyce, J.P., Reeve and Treasurer, (his great-grandson S. S. Boyce, is Clerk in 1950). P. P. Peavoy and Thos. D. McCutcheon are on the roll of Everton Church and are Township officials at the moment.

The Ramsey family are believed to be of Manx origin. About the close of the 17th century one or more of the family emigrated to Donegal, North Ireland. Robert came to the United States in 1816 and John in 1819. Eramosa was being surveyed and John drew the East ½ of Lot 1, Con. 3, and returned to Nelson after examining his lot. He worked there until the spring of 1820 and in that year he erected a log shanty in Eramosa. He married Rachel Cleaver, daughter of John Cleaver and Mary Hughes, who had settled on the Middle Road, Nelson Township, Halton County, in 1807. John and Rachel Ramsey settled on Lot 1, Con. 3, Eramosa, in the Spring of 1821. She had the satisfaction of knowing that there was not another white girl within 20 miles, and that there was not another white settler in what is now known as the County of Wellington except themselves. Their daughter, Mary, was born on February 12th, 1822, the first white child to be born in Eramosa. Mary married Henry Scott, born in Donegal, and they settled on Lot 18, Con. 2, Eramosa. Their daughter, Mary Emma, married John Marshall, for many years prominent in municipal affairs in

Nassagaweya and who in 1932 had been for 51 years a member of the Trustee Board of Ebenezer Church. A son, Norman S. Marshall, is now (1950) Postmaster at Eden Mills; a grandson, Norman R., was recently married in St. John's Church, Rockwood.

Mrs. John Marshall has this to say of Rev. Dr. Wm. Barrie: "For 34 years, dating from January, 843 to June, 1877, Rev. Wm. Barrie, D.D., ministered to the people of First Presbyterian Church, Eramosa. The Reverend Gentleman was a Scotchman by birth, was educated in his native land and came to Canada as a Missionary when a comparatively young man. His pastoral work was largely done by way of travelling on foot through the forest from home to home, mostly through a scattered community. Having acquired some knowledge of medicine, he was enabled to prescribe to the physical needs of his people in times of sickness. His kindness and care endeared him to his people and no small measure, one of the great factors in his success in ministry was his love for his young people and, in return their love for him. He often expressed great faith in them and is oft remembered as saying, 'I have no fears and no issues.' He was always one with them in their merriment and fun, even as he advanced in years. His sermons were lengthy and one of the strong points of his preaching was 'The Sovereignty of God in Man's Redemption.' The congregation stood during prayer which usually lasted one half hour. The dispensing of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was an occasion of great solemnity, the sermon was long and this, together with before and after communion made a very lengthy service. He had a wonderful sense of humor which was evident in his social life. He provided much merriment at weddings, social gatherings and even on more serious occasions."

An Illustration: At one of the meetings of Guelph Presbytery, as was the custom, a young candidate preached his trial sermon before the Presbytery. When, after the delivery, the Rev. Dr. was appointed to offer his criticism, he said: "Well, my friends, ye've a heard the sermon, there's nae verra muckle in't, but he's a guid lookin' laddie and he'll tease the lassies eh. And that's aye a great matter. So I move we gie him the license to preach." At one time during his ministry, he became suspicious that habitual card playing was carried on in the home of one of his near by members and one night made a visit to assure himself. He knocked at the door, entered without invitation, found his suspicions confirmed, and with the exclamation, "Aye, I see ye're at the deil's work," he immediately walked out. His unselfishness shone in his untiring efforts, sparing not himself that he might render whole hearted service to his large and dearly beloved flock. Failing health made it necessary for him to retire from active labours of a lifetime spent in the service of his Master.

The following is written by Mrs. Robt. L. Bingham, a daughter of Walker Powers and Elizabeth Johnson. Mr. and Mrs. Bingham retired to Rockwood from the Johnson homestead a year or two ago; their daughter is Mrs. (Dr.) Frank Gaskes (V.S.), Acton. Grandfather Johnson was born in 1807 near Liverpool, England. Grandmother (Smith) Johnson came from Hawick, Scotland. They came over to Philadelphia at separate times, both worked there but never met. He came to Guelph, then a hamlet, in 1825, a year later she came. He stayed on the farm now occupied by

Ernest Rawson, (W ½ Lot 19, Con 1) In the meantime they met and were married by Elder James Black, J P , in the house now occupied by Mr Roy Brooks, (Lot 20, Con 1) in 1832 They lived with his father until they bought the 200 acres, their own homestead Amid great privations and hardships they managed to meet payments and at last owned their property Having a good mill site they built a sawmill at the little creek below the house His two elder brothers worked with The Canada Surveying Co his brother Will cut the first tree in Guelph on account of Galt not being able, his brothers were very able in the use of the axe and all tools Grandfather Smith had the first horse in Eramosa, brought it with him from the States. Their family were Nancy, Edward, Eliza, James, Hannah, Jane, Archie, Elizabeth and Henry "

## The History of Speedside Church, 1845-1945

By Rev E G Dale

There is no record of the earliest preaching in the vicinity of Speedside, but the minute book, which goes back to the organization of the church, says that in 1843 and 1844 there had been no preaching for 18 months Mr James Peters arranged a meeting for the members of the Congregational Church of Guelph, who resided in the Township of Eramosa Rev Hiram Denny and Rev John Armour, of Esquesing, preached to a small but very attentive congregation At this meeting, it was decided to meet again on January 11th, 1845 for the purpose of organization They met in the home of Mrs Abigail McCormick To form the new church, letters of dismissal were brought by Rev Leonard McGlashan pastor of the Guelph Congregational Church for the following 9 persons George, Jean, John S and Nancy and Elizabeth Armstrong, James and Sarah Peters, Abigail McCormick and Wm Benham To these were added, to form the first church, 8 new members George, Susannah, James and Francis Lush, William, Thomas and George S. Armstrong and Hannah Peters The first deacons were George Armstrong Sr and James Peters The latter was also appointed secretary, an office he held until his death 24 years later Rev Hiram Denny was invited to preach every two weeks The name adopted was "The Second Congregational Church in Eramosa", and application was made for membership to the Congregational Union of Canada A proposal to introduce Watt's "Hymns and Psalms" to be used occasionally in Divine Worship was decided against, and the constitution, proposed by Rev. Mr Denny, was never accepted

The young church was alert and new members were soon added By 1848 the membership was 33 In these early days, candidates for membership were waited on by a deputation from the church and strict examination of fitness was made Prayer meetings were held "at early candle light" and members were disciplined for drawing in wheat on Sunday Sunday meetings were held in the Upper School House, and in the school house near McCormick's. The first recorded offering was taken in 1848 for the Congregational Academy in Toronto. A Bible and Tract Society was formed in 1851, John S. Armstrong being president In 1852 an offering was received for the French Canadian Missionary Society In 1854 they

joined with the Presbyterian Church of Barrie's Meeting House (now Barrie Hill) to hear the agent of the Bible Society. In 1856 gifts were made to the American Board of Foreign Missions.

Rev. R. J. Williams became permanent pastor on January 1st 1850, when the minutes record a friendly seperation from Rev. Mr. Denny. At Mr. Williams ordination the sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. Robinson of Hamilton on "The Discipline and Government of Congregational Churches". Rev. Mr. Clarke of Simcoe gave a very affectionate and appropriate charge to the pastor. Kirkbride's Settlement became part of the charge and the Canadian Home Missionary Society gave financial help. Caledon was also added in 1852. In May 1852 it was decided to use "The Congregational Hymn Book" alternately with "The Psalms and Paraphrases" at the discretion of the minister. The same year William S. Armstrong gave the present church site, an acre of cleared ground on the south corner of Lot 26, for the purpose of building a pastor's house and barn. The building committee consisted of James Peters, Henry Masters and Wm. S. Armstrong. The first mention of a Union Sabbath School was in 1852. On February 5th, 1853 the following building committee was appointed: James Peters, Henry Masters, William S. Armstrong and the Pastor. The present church was erected of limestone. Subscriptions were received and the balance of the debt was finally paid by a legacy from Mrs. William Armstrong in 1868.

Rev. Enoch Barker became pastor in 1855 at a salary of $400, which was an increase of $100. At his ordination on October 3rd the following Congregational ministers participated: Rev. John Roaf, Rev. Dr. Lillie, Rev. E. Ebbs, Rev. I. Unsworth as well as Rev. Wm. Barrie of Barrie's Presbyterian Church. At the same time the new chapel was opened. By this time the membership was 83, but the next year 13 were dismissed to form a church in Caledon (now Simpson's Corners). By this time several familiar names had been added: Hindley, Freure, Lister, McGladrey, Sloan, Johnson and Blackley. The record of baptisms goes back to June 4th, 1855 when the pastor baptized George Gerrie, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Gerrie, Sr. and Janet, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Gerrie. Because of ill health Rev. Enoch Barker resigned in 1861 and Rev. John Brown became his successor until 1864. In 1865 the first unanimous call in the history of the congregation was extended to Rev. Charles Duff of Meaford who left a year later for Nova Scotia. Rev. W. F. Clarke became pastor for 5 years, Rev. D. M. Archer for 1 year, Rev. Mr. Clarke and Rev. Mr. Duff returned for second pastorates of undesignated lengths. The latter's son, Sir Lyman P. Duff, has recently resigned as Chief Justice of Canada, and his early days are recalled by some of the older members of the congregation.

A church shed was built in 1869. In 1871 the baptism of infants of unbelieving parents was rejected. A new parsonage was built in 1873. During these years Ospringe and Ennotville were served by the Speedside minister. The minutes are irregular at this point but on November 29th, 1886, Rev. Charles Pedley accepted a call to the joint charge of Fergus and Speedside. He resigned in 1888 and Rev. D. M. McCormack became pastor for 2 years. In May 1891 Rev. Albert Margaret became pastor at a salary of $500 with free parsonage. At his ordination, the following min-

isters participated Rev George Robertson Rev Charles Duff of Toronto, Rev J J Hindley of Granby Quebec Rev James Salmon The next year 27 members were added at one communion showing how fruitful was the work Mr Margaret resigned in May 1894 and was succeeded in the next year by A F Pollock as student supply for 1 year He was ordained and became settled minister until 1901 During that time the personage was bricked in He was succeeded by Mr W H Marshal who served Speedside and Fergus until 1905

In June 1906 Mr E A Schmidt became minister for 2 years During the pastorate of Rev A E Cook which began January 30th 1909 the church was redecorated and a fence erected around the property Mr John Lyal was pastor from November 1911 to October 1914 being ordained in 1912 His successor Rev Matthew Kelley labored from 1916 to 1919, the church at Garafraxa uniting with Speedside Rev James Plant was minister from 1919 to 1923 and led the congregation into a fruitful ministry In January 1924 the Speedside Church called as its pastor the able minister Rev John Little who also served Barrie Hill Presbyterian Church This co-operation continued into the United Church of Canada effective 1925 Rev Mr Little resigned in 1928 Rev John Robertson was the efficient pastor from 1928 to 1937 giving 9 years of constructive leadership the longest pastorate in the history of the congregation Rev Geo. I Stephenson followed with 2 years of helpful leadership especially in improving the music of the services He was instrumental in having the new Hymnary used the books being donated by Messrs Edward and Thomas Freure The latter upon his death left a legacy of $800 to the church and the same amount to the Bible Society

The present pastor Rev E G Dale came to the church in 1939 The membership at the Centenary is 56 of whom 35 are resident The congregations though not large are composed of worshippers who work unitedly to further the interests of the Kingdom In 1944 they put a new roof on the church and have made plans to redecorate the interior before celebrating their Centenary The Sunday School still continues It is greatly indebted to the late Mr James L Benham who was Superintendent for many years and who made a generous bequest to the missionary work of the United Church Other faithful Sunday School leaders have been Messrs Fred Martin M J Hunt J L Taylor W R Shaw and the present loyal helper Mr Rea Freure The other societies now in action are the W M S in charge of Mrs Rea Freure the Ladies Aid led by Mrs Albert Harper Mission Band by Mrs Hugh Sampson and the Baby Band by Mrs A. Gracey After 100 years of service Speedside Church looks happily back upon the sacrifice of faithful pioneers and expectantly ahead to whatever of service God may have in store

Deacons George Armstrong James Peters Andrew Gerrie, Robert Bichen, Thomas Armstrong John Peters George Armstrong, James S. Armstrong, Adam Armstrong Andrew Freure Felix Freure, J L Taylor, J L Benham, J R Laycock William Hindley, George Newstead, J Carter, T A Sloan, Fred Martin, Charles Bolton F McGladrey, J J Elliott, Fred Freure, Marshall Hunt, Wm Warmington, Earl Hindley, Bruce Freure.

Elders since Union J. L. Taylor, Earl Hindley, Fred Freure, Bruce Freure, James L. Benham, R. C. McGladrey, A. Boles, Wilbert Matthews.
NOTES BY FRANK DAY Rev. E. G. Dale received a call to Fullarton in 1948, having equalled the length of pastorate of Rev. John Robertson, 9 years. Barrie Hill and Speedside called Rev. W. R. Buchanan of Ravenna, Ont. On June 15th, Presbytery appointed Rev. John Ward and Rev. Dr. C. E. Kenny to induct Mr. Buchanan into the Eramosa charge on July 2nd, 1948. Rev. W. R. Buchanan received a call to Caistorville, effective July 1st, 1952, and Rev. Hugh C. McTaggart, B.A., Dalston, Ont., was duly inducted to the charge of Barrie Hill and Speedside.

The Congregationalists had a church at Eden Mills, The First Congregational Church, Eramosa. On January 11th, 1853, a member wrote that a house (church) had been erected and a few days before had been opened for worship. Rev. Hiram Denny of Halton County had been the first pastor, having several churches on his circuit, including The Second Congregational Church at Speedside, and Rev. J. Braine of Guelph was in 1853 taking the services. This Hiram Denny was a great, great uncle of my wife, it is true that he lived in Halton County, but it was on the town line between Halton and Wellington, just beyond the Churchill United Church, formerly Congregational, on Lot 32, Con. 3, Esquesing.

From The Globe of February 12th, 1940. Right Hon. Sir Lyman P. Duff, 74 year-old Chief Justice of Canada, who has substituted frequently for Governors-General of Canada but never for so sorrowful a cause, was clothed to-night with all the powers and prerogatives of the King's personal representative in Canada as Administrator of the Government.

In a solemn ceremony, enacted at the residence of Sir Lyman and in the presence of Prime Minister Mackenzie King, the Chief Justice late this evening repeated the same solemn oaths which the late Governor-General, Lord Tweedsmuir, took when he came to Ottawa on Nov. 2nd, 1935. The swearing-in took place three hours after Lord Tweedsmuir's death in a Montreal hospital.

# Rockwood

Dr A E Byerly in "The Beginning of Things" says that Rockwood was known as Brotherstown and as Strange's Mills in early days Several of the earliest settlers appear to have been Friends and the first record of a meeting house appears to have been of that built by John Harris for the Friends It is not hard to believe that the first name may have been Brotherstown in accord with the well-known views of the Friends regarding peace and brotherhood Squire Strange came to the village later and erected many of the first mills probably giving reason for the early name of Strange's Mills Rockwood was the name when the railway came through in the 1850's and Rockwood is the only name to be found in Post Office Records Until 1903 the village was an undefined area In fact the term "village" is still used very loosely in Ontario in 1950 Everton Ospike etc are just hamlets parts of the Township of Eramosa Eden Mills was erected into a Police Village in 1930 Rockwood was made a Police Village in 1903 by a bylaw of the Wellington County Council dated May 29th On June 2nd 1906 the same council incorporated the Police Trustees of the Police Village of Rockwood to be a Corporation under the Municipal Act the population having reached the 500 mark Thus in 1950 while the Trustees are a corporation the village is not an incorporated village It is somewhat confusing to find Rockwood a Police Village with the Trustees a corporation Eden Mills a Police Village not having reached the 500 mark the Trustees not a corporation Everton a hamlet Bergus the largest rural village in Ontario an incorporated Village Acton a town and Guelph a City

The boundaries of Rockwood have not changed since 1903 the Police Village consisting of 80 acres the East halves of Lots 3 4 5 and 6 in the 4th Concession and the West halves of Lots 3 4 5 and 6 in the 5th Concession of the Township of Eramosa At the First Nomination Meeting from Noon to One O'Clock on June 9th 1903 James W Knowles William Harris and James N Stinson were elected the First Trustees all by acclamation Other Trustees serving in the period up to 1950 were John Gerstang, James A Hamilton Tindal Lundy Wm E Smith Wm A McCullough, George W Lawrence John Gibbons R Guild Chas Strange Thos Talbot Colin Cameron Robt Thatcher R F McWilliams Fred Smith Geo. Gordon Colin Kissling John Lister C F McArthur all deceased Ex trustees still living in the village are William Harris Chas H Harris John R Richardson S R Peart John A Little Geo H Pearen Chas R Thatcher and Frank Day Trustees for 1950 are Leslie J Ayres Walter Hunt and Clifford Meadows The present secretary Mr S S Royce was appointed January 17th 1916 1952 trustees Frank Schneider John Lloyd and Chas Hefferman

Rockwood has elected its fifty-first Board of Trustees for the year 1953 composed of Messrs Frank Schneider John Lloyd and Chas Hefferman It has grown faster than the older police villages of Belwood and Orton erected in 1900 or Hillsburgh erected in 1899 and Moorefield in 1898 The population of Rockwood in 1952 is about 700 which is 50 short of the number for an incorporated Village under the Municipal Act Discussions are already under way regarding application for full village status

with a reeve and council instead of the present police village with three trustees. There is every indication that the required population will be reached in a very short time but the renowned beauty spot is psychologically rural rather than urban. Most of the regular urban amenities, such as churches, schools, sports facilities, hydro, cemetery, streets, fire protection, etc. are equal to the best, especially when the large area and small number of people is considered. Rural tendencies are evident in the untidy and hap-hazard parking conditions, even the big highway and county snow-plows have to swerve to avoid collision with trucks and cars parked all winter on the streets. The village is not yet urban enough for an ordinary village dog by-law, except the impotent four-month restriction which is breached more than it is observed. As the village emerges from the old fenced or walled in lawn and garden to the modern wide open surroundings, competition between the dogs and the gardens increases and it is not safe to bet on the winner. As a correspondent to a local paper recently observed. Some mothers use the best in modern health technique as taught at the local clinic, only to watch the family dog licking the baby's face when he returns from a forage in the neighbour's garbage can. However, the steady growth and increasing village consciousness is sure to bring a tendency toward the maintenance of its unsurpassed residential qualities.

The following article is reprinted from the "Rockwood Community Bulletin" of October 15th, 1952

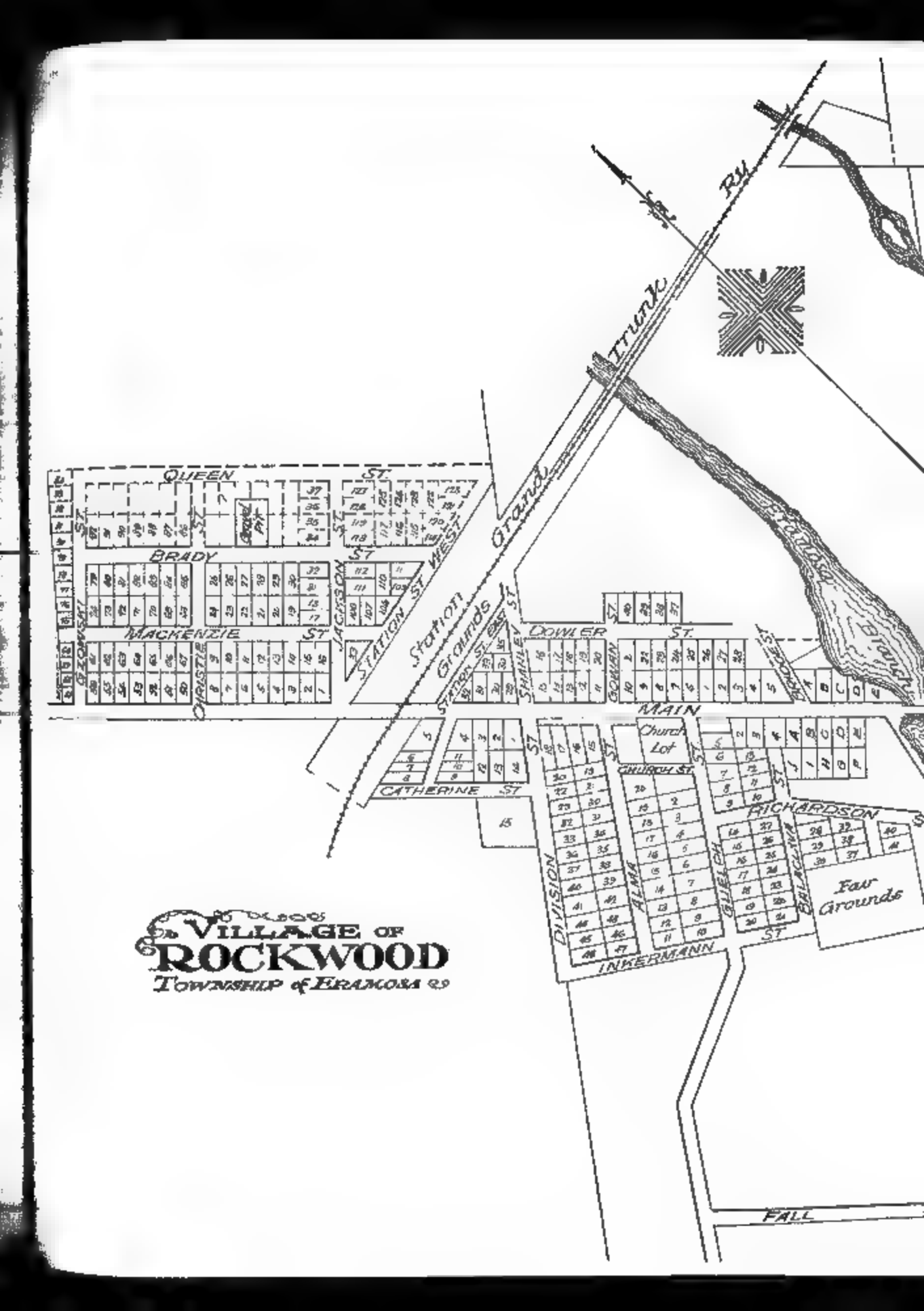
**Wolves Look in Windows at Night Outside Early Rockwood Home**

I was particularly interested in your article in the Rockwood Bulletin of July 15th, telling of the first mail delivery in Rockwood and the list of Postmasters from the first one (Robert Pasmore) to the present, all of whom I remember well, then the list of assistants, though you missed one name (inadvertently no doubt) who was well liked, and highly respected, and probably the longest reigning, George Torrance. Then the interesting item that John Harris (grandfather of William Harris) was the first settler in Rockwood, which is quite correct, as I have in my possession not only the copy of the deed of sale to Mr. Harris, but a number of other early settlers, who came later, written out to them by my father—Henry Strange, whom you rated as the second settler, also correct. At different times I have been asked why my father had not chosen to be the first settler on his own property. As some who were living at that time are living now, I think this an appropriate time, as most people have a hazy idea of how Rockwood came into being, to tell those who are interested in knowing how it started, and by whom, with the best of my ability. Henry Strange, when quite young, came into possession of about 1200 acres of bush land, in the County of Wellington and Township of Eramosa. He was appointed Magistrate, and was busy with his profession, surveying railroads, etc., and had a good home nearby, and was therefore in no great haste to plunge into a dense forest alone. He first hired competent men to clear sufficient space on the site he chose for his home and his requirements for future buildings, his permanent home, stone barn, etc., etc. Then he had a temporary home built, married, and took his young bride to their new home

in Rockwood (I have heard my mother speak of wolves looking in the windows at night and howling) He surveyed the village of Rockwood He laid it out in building lots and some time later started to build his permanent home They had 6 sons and 8 daughters of whom I am the 13th child and the 8th daughter and the only one living today Four of the first half died in infancy The first born was a son and thus became another Henry Strange (M D ) who by election was the first Medical Registrar in Ontario Our home (where I first saw the light of day) can be seen on the hill opposite the swimming pool down town In our time it was well known as "Pine Hill Grove" but is now known as "The Cedars" and is owned and occupied by Mr Frank Stout The stone of which it is built came from his own quarries He was widely known and familiarly called Squire Strange He eventually had nearly 500 acres in cultivation How did this young man come to possess this tract of land? That involves delving into Guelph's early history About the late 1820's or early 1830's my grandfather also Henry Strange left his home in Tunbridge Wells Kent England and sailed to Canada with his wife and family which consisted of three daughters and one son they settled in Guelph He bought the first house built in Guelph, well known as "The Priory" from the man who built it John Galt, of the Canada Co y and he and his family were definitely its first occupants He became one of Guelph's Pioneers The Priory was an especially well-built house made from choicest of timber larger and much superior to the log house of those days

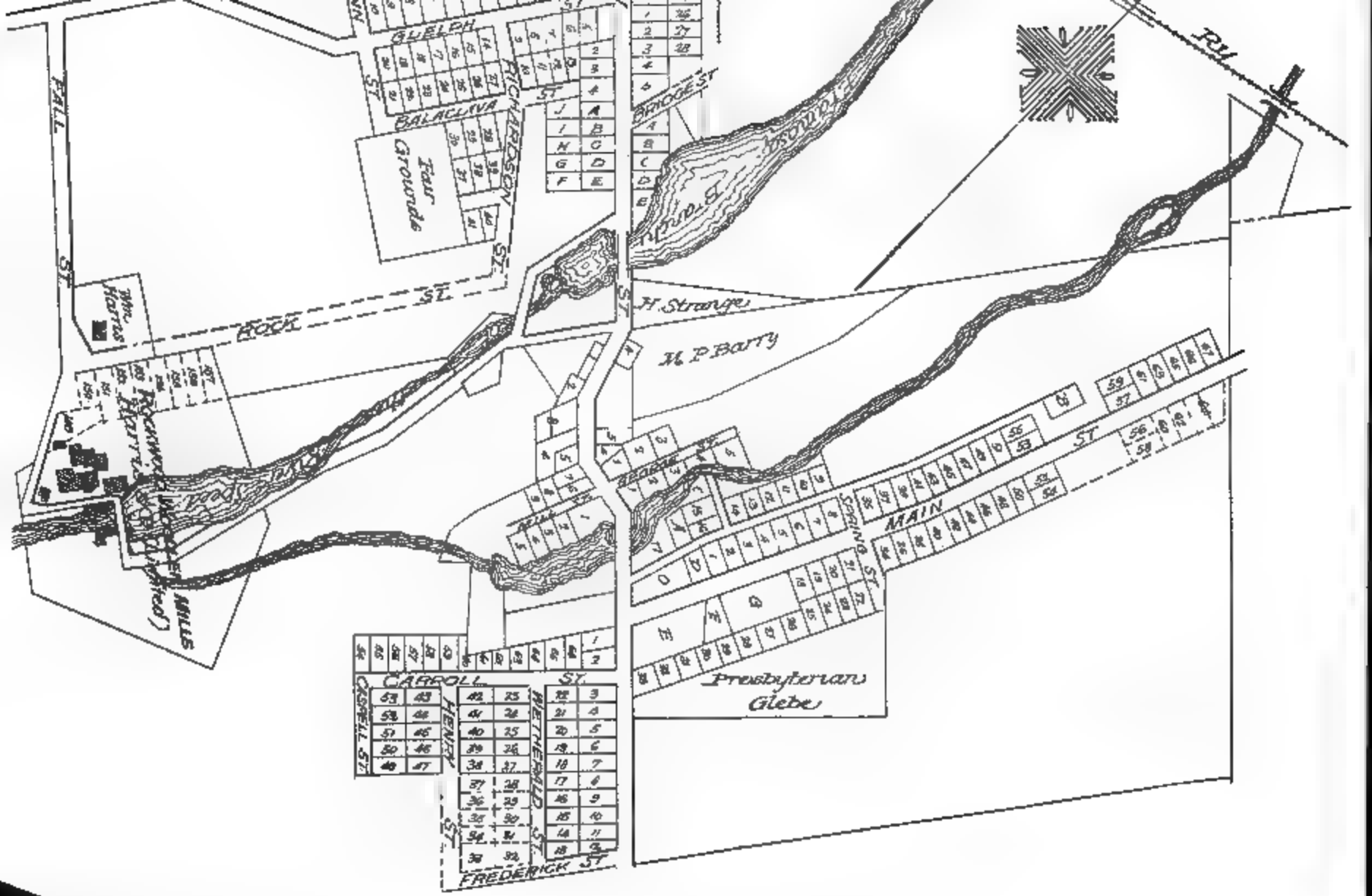
It was occupied for many years after my grandfather then was taken over by the C P R moved to their tracks and used as their station for years, until they built a new one, then it was torn down and a replica of it was built to scale by W A Cowan and his two sons David and Walter After being on exhibition for some time in front of the City Hall it finally found a permanent resting place in Riverside Park Guelph, where it has been for some years

I still possess the first table (cherry) built in Guelph (also by the Canada Company) and a relic of the Priory There is a very old street in Guelph called after my grandfather Strange St From time to time in years back, I've read articles about early Guelph in a Guelph newspaper with a picture of The Priory and a short list of earlier occupants of it and never once was my grandfather's name mentioned which proved that their historical information did not go back far enough This is certainly no fault of the newspaper but perhaps (unwittingly) of the early settlers themselves, (coupled with careless historians) neglecting to record important early events some much later settler suddenly realizes they should be recording their history he begins to check up 30 or more years back, he finds many of the old reliables have died and many have moved to parts unknown etc, and he has to depend on the semi-informed and the misinformed and to quote Myron David Orr an historical writer of stories, and the author of "The Citadel of the Lakes", who has forceful views on the duties and obligations of historical writers He says "most historians are downright lazy They read a fact, and accept it without further edo." Not Author Orr Every fact in my book comes from authentic and original papers.




# VILLAGE OF ROCKWOOD

TOWNSHIP of FRAMOSA


GUELPH
BALACLAVA
ST
Fair Grounds
FALL
ROCK
Wm. Harris
Rosamond Woollen Co. (Limited)
WOOLEN MILLS
Wood's Run
Mill Race
BRIDGE ST
Mill Pond
Island
H. Strange
M. P. Barry
ARGYLE
MAIN
SPRING ST
Presbyterian Glebe
CARROLL
CASSELL ST
HENRY
WETHERALD ST
FREDERICK ST

Henry Strange Sr owned a considerable amount of land on the site where Guelph now stands, also, the larger tract of bushland where Rockwood now stands He gave his son Henry his choice of his Guelph property or the bushland, and my father, (always having a great love for the 'wild and woolly') chose the latter and that is how Henry Strange came into possession of the Rockwood property.

My grandfather died very suddenly in Guelph in 1838 One of his three daughters went back to England to spend the rest of her life The other two remained here and married. One of them had a son, who many years later became one of Ontario's Lieut.-Governors, the Hon Lionel H Clarke, who, while still in office, died in August, 1921

It was 2 or 3 years after my grandfather's death before my father went to Rockwood to live He lived all the rest of his life there and died in 1906, at the ripe old age of 91 years.

I hope this authentic history of "Early Rockwood" will elucidate some of its perplexities

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) Emily A. Strange-Johnston

Dr. Byerly says further of Rockwood Rockwood and Eden Mills are the principal villages in Eramosa The Harris family is the oldest family at Rockwood and up to a few years ago, conducted its principal business, a woollen mill Robert Pasmore, who opened a store in Rockwood in the early 50's has two sons living at Rockwood, schoolmates of the late famous James J. Hill, railway builder, who was born in Eramosa William North was a school teacher, one of the family who settled at an early date and also had a school at Elora in 1848, going there after the school burned down at Rockwood, or Brotherstown. As Eramosa Township was the first in the County to be settled, save the attempt of Matthews in Nichol, and a few settlers in Pilkington, this rather extensive notice of its early history has been given

Wellington County Atlas says Rockwood justly claims distinction for its natural beauty The rugged rocks that skirt the Eramosa branch of the Speed with their romantic scenery are unsurpassed in this part of the Province. The water power is utilized by a number of manufacturing establishments, among them the woollen mills of the Harris & Co., Ltd, while a little lower are the Lorne Mills. Rockwood has four churches, two hotels, a number of stores, a branch of The Traders' Bank, and a Public Library The population is about 600.

Lovell's Directory of 1871 says Rockwood A flourishing village on the river Speed, Township of Eramosa, centre riding of the County of Wellington. It has extensive water power The neighbourhood affords some striking scenery Here are excellent limestone quarries. Rockwood contains grist, saw and oatmeal mills, a large woollen factory, a stave factory, and an excellent academy accommodating from 40 to 50 pupils There is a cheese factory 2 miles from the village Montreal Telegraph Co. has an office, and the Grand Trunk Railway a station here. Distant from Guelph,

7 miles, from Toronto 41 miles, from Georgetown 12 miles, from Stratford 47 miles Mail daily Population about 600

In the year 1912 the Trustees were in communication with the Hydro Electric Commission concerning a supply of electric power for the village and on January 20th 1913 a bylaw was passed authorizing the Trustees to sign a contract with the Commission for the purpose of lighting the village streets and the supply of electric light and power to residents. Since that date, the Police Village Trustees have acted as a Hydro Commission within the limits of the Police Village They did occasionally supply power just outside the limits, but as the Guelph Rural District developed, those outside the village limits were supplied from the rural system

## A ROCKWOOD PHILOSOPHER

William Wood, son of William and Ann Wood, was born in the township of Mottram St Andrews, Parish of Prestbury, Cheshire, England, on February 4th, 1836. He sailed from Liverpool on the "NORTH BRITAIN" of the Allen Line on May 16th, 1861, landing at Point Levi opposite Quebec, on June 4th He arrived in Guelph on the 6th and at his destination Puslinch Plains (Arkell or Farnham) on the 7th, the trip cost him $52 00

He was 25 and corresponded with his fiancee, Miss Sarah Pimlott of Prestbury, who was 27 She sailed from Liverpool on the "HIBERNIAN" on November 20th 1862 in the company of Mr and Mrs Hewer of Puslinch Plains, arriving on December 8th Their family record says that William and Sarah were married on January 7th, 1863, at Little Farnham Church, Puslinch, near Guelph by Rev C H Drinkwater B A Missionary

When writing to his future wife William gives his address as "C-o Mr John Oulton, Puslinch Plains Guelph P O Canada West, America" His four children, John, born in December, 1863 Rachel Ann in 1865, William in 1866 and Mary Martha in 1869 were all born, according to the record, at Little Farnham Plains, in the Township of Puslinch, and County of Wellington, Province of Ontario, Dominion of Canada

Before he was married, William left the Plains of Puslinch, as he terms it, on New Year's Day, 1862 for Mount Forest He describes his trip as follows: "In the winter of 1862 I went to work in a new settlement called 'Mount Forest', about 45 miles from Guelph, or mid-distant to Owen Sound on the Georgian Bay Originally the path or road was an indian trail and used as a means of communication from the upper to the lower lakes and so on to the falls of Niagara, to which place they were wont to resort to offer sacrifice to the God of the Waters It took two days to travel there, sometimes walking, sometimes riding, the snow was deep and the cold was more intense than I had experienced before There were four of us in company, all strangers to each other, but going to the same place, three were Canadian born, I was the "green-horn", as they call all fresh arrivals till they become naturalized, so to speak

On the second day of our travel I first saw the effect of cold, one of the company said to the other, "Your ear is frozen." I looked at it and the lobe was as white as the snow we were travelling through, and felt quite

hard till by persistently rubbing it with snow it became soft and restored to its natural colour. 'Tis singular that you cannot tell when you are freezing except by the colour and that snow and rubbing is the best restorative. To go near a fire would produce bad results afterwards.

It is also noted that a European fresh from home is better able to stand the rigours of winter than the native Canadians or those who have been many years in the country. I know that I was no better clad than I was at home and for many winters afterwards and did not feel that I required it.

The site of the future town had the first tree chopped down three years before and consisted of a small clearing and a few log shanties, whose style may be dignified by the name of "forest architecture" and encircled by a wall of bush on every side. Bears, wolves, deer and Indians were our neighbours. One moonlight night shortly after my arrival when going from my work and not far from my lodgings I heard what I thought was a pack of hounds in full cry. I stood still for a short time expecting to see them pass me but the noise suddenly ceased and I passed on. When I got to the house I asked who kept hounds. I was answered "No one." They told me that it was a pack of wolves that I had heard and that they often ran the deer into the clearings. The poor deer, shy and retiring as their nature is, thus seek man's protection. They have been known to run into the settlers' houses when thus chased. They were once very plentiful and no little source of torment to the settlers, coming into the clearings and eating up what little crop was growing. As a palliative, however, for these depredations their flesh formed quite an item in the menu of the early settlers, very acceptable when other eatables were scanty.

And here I must not omit to mention that when a child at home I have often read in the New Testament of "two women grinding at a mill," and did not understand its import, but here it has often been practically illustrated. There being no flour mills perhaps for 50 miles distant, what little grain they had was pounded between two stones, or put through a coffee mill and crushed into the semblance of flour, and thus converted into unleavened bread or cakes, baked in an iron pot buried among the embers of the log fires in the open fire places. I have never tasted such bread but have been informed that it was good and palatable. William writes to his girl to say that he will be back at the Plains before she arrives in December for their marriage. His letters exhibit the usual homesickness of an immigrant and show him to be an artist at turning the amorous phrase so dear to the heart of a maiden. He proceeds: "I never feel so happy, oh no, as when my wandering mind is thinking of Henderson St. and the happy hours we have spent there in the very moments and the pleasant walk to Gowsworth. I almost live over again and I never, oh never, shall forget the tears I saw rolling down your cheeks the last time I saw your face. I look at the Bible and those lines you set up to work all night you see, my dear, I have not forgot that, and I hope you will not forget me, you may depend on me and trust my fidelity while the warm blood leaps through my veins.

Now my dear, accept of my best love once more and believe me in all sincerity your faithful servant while I live, so once more good bye and

farewell and may Heaven bless you with its choicest blessings is the wish of yours most truly believe me, goodnight, one fond kiss, and happy dreams attend your peaceful slumber now and for evermore

Press me a little longer on the brink,
Of fate yet I fear thy dear caress,
And when the sea divides us two,
Oh think and let it mitigate thy woes excess,
That thou hast been to me all tenderness.

Adieu for the present farewell remember me and the days long past so sweet Good bye love good bye

The Wood family moved to Rockwood about 1872 later, Wm Wood wrote of his experience and philosophy and gathered together many items of news quotations and pictures His experience is best told in a series of articles published in The Courier and Herald of Macclesfield, Cheshire, England The articles were in the form of letters to Dr Frank Renaud, F S A. who had befriended William Wood as a boy in Prestbury Wm Wood writes of his experiences in Canada A majority of the earlier settlers had a liking for whiskey its price was only 20c per gallon when I came here, and was much cheaper still before I arrived I have heard them say that "oxen and whiskey made the country" and true, I thought, it was an important factor judging by the quantities drank at the "bees", of which I hope to speak hereafter

I learned to manage horses and to plough to reap and mow in the fashion of this country and other things pertaining to the chief industry, viz agriculture I also learned to use the axe which was in fact, the prime breadwinner in those days The natives, I mean the Canadians, are very dexterous in its use There being no coal in those days and not much used even now all our fuel was of the forest The winters being long averaging fully 5 months and not much work except chopping cordwood or feeding the cattle and being a weaver by trade I was recommended to make a loom and weave the homespun woollen that most everyone wore I got the necessary lumber and though I had no previous knowledge of carpenter's tools I made an essay in that direction, for I saw I must attempt and do something if I never did it before I succeeded beyond expectation and felt encouraged and often think that God helps them who help themselves" and that He specially instructed me

A loom was not all I needed however for there were other tools and etceteras that I had to make beside before I could throw the shuttle But to make short work of my story the putting together of the cloth is the prime factor and not the elegance of the tools used in its construction, and it was the means of clothing many both men women and children myself also, and the means of subsistence also in the shape of flour bacon pork, potatoes, etc in the form of barter I wove woollen blankets coverlets, and rag carpets also for many years There was not much money in the country I know that I did not bring much in myself For 9 years I wove in the winter and worked on the land in the summer, or until I removed to Rockwood

In the course of a few years a number of small woollen mills began

to crop up, where carding, spinning, weaving and fulling were carried on, which made it more convenient for the people in general, but in a measure ruined custom weaving, as my occupation was named. I then sought work in one of the mills at Rockwood and have been at the same place nearly 19 years. My health, that is, one-half of me, so to speak, is completely broken down and I have not done any manual labour since 1883. I will now enumerate, but not in the least shadow of boasting, the various occupations and kinds of work I have become accomplished in, that is to say, earned my daily bread with, since I came here.

I could plough a seed furrow (any ploughman at home could tell you what that means), sow grain, mow, bind after a reaper, load hay or grain, use the spade and flail, use the axe in the bush felling the large trees, cutting them up and splitting them into cordwood or the log pile. I can weave by hand or powerloom all kinds of flannel and tweed cloths, can spin on a machine called a spinning jenny, sort wool, etc., or as the auctioneers say, "many more things too numerous to mention". My life for the first 22 years in Canada was an active one, constantly learning and working, but I cannot do any of these things now; my Father above, in mercy and love, has seen fit to give me a "thorn in the flesh", but I can think of all His goodness and mercies in the past and trust Him for the future. This is the country to make the man; we all have to do things never dreamed of at home, to have self-reliance and do the best you can.

Dismissing now personal affairs, I purpose in the remaining letters to write you a description of things as I have seen them through my spectacles, or rather, as I have understood them. I have not travelled much, but I have been on the shores of Lake Huron, to the falls of Niagara, and also near the Georgian Bay, places which are widely apart. The general aspect of the country is much the same where settlement has been made, so that one description will, in a great measure, suffice for all. It is not at present historical ground, that is, I mean, for my pen. I will speak first of the inhabitants, the colonists, and I wish to observe that not all emigrants are colonists. That is to say, they are not all "to the manner born" or, strictly speaking, have inherent qualities that can be reached, when placed in circumstances favourable to their development. Lacking these, they are miserable here as elsewhere; in fact, I know men who could not work for themselves, they needed a guiding hand or they were nothing.

The population of The Dominion of Canada is about 5 millions, scattered over a surface much larger than the whole of Europe, and is of a very cosmopolitan character, indeed. There are Englishmen from all the shires at home, from Northumberland to Cornwall, Scotchmen from Caithness to Berwick-on-Tweed, Irishmen from Derry to Cork, Welshmen from Flint to Cardiff, Germans, high and low, Scandinavians, Hungarians, Italians, Russians, etc., in fact, all the countries of the world are represented here. There are negroes who were once slaves in the neighbouring republic, also the native Indians, some civilized, others partially so. The majority speak the English language in a sort of way, but retain the identity and peculiarity of their native land. To a certain extent, little colonies of these different nationalities are huddled together. However, the common

school system of education which now prevails, wherein the English language is almost universally taught will in the course of time, bring all to a common level in that respect so that none will need to be thus handicapped.

I observed with much pleasure when first I came here that the young people spoke very properly and with a good accent and that there was no provincialism of dialect such as we have at home still there were some peculiarities and expressions that sounded very laughable to me such as: "The Boss I guess Quit etc but they are nationa not sectional. The Boss means the master and its meaning is also so flexible that it also denotes the quality of a thing such as that's a boss horse or that's a boss wagon and in the sense to anything that is superior. The expression "I guess has been imported from the States I think by intercourse with the Yankees but probably by the United Empire Loyalists also who were originally British colonists at the time of the Revolution in 1776 and who fought for King George the Third during the war for independence. When their cause lost as well their lands were confiscated and not taking kindly to the new order of things they crossed the border and were welcomed and given land under their beloved flag and commenced a new home in Canada no doubt preferable to them at the time. Many of their descendents to-day sit in the legislative halls honoured sons and grandsons of worthy sire. The other word quit is very short and concise and universally used meaning to stop or stay proceedings in any direction pleasant, offensive or in any other sense.

Since I have been here many inventions have been made to lessen the manual labour of the agriculturist his fields now being more level and many obstructions removed. The reaping machine has supplanted the old "cradle" with the result that where it took 6 men to cut and bind a field of wheat in one day a span of horses and one man can do the same in less time now. There are machines that both cut and tie up the sheaves and deposit them in heaps ready to be shocked. The agricultural labourer is now at a discount. 15 years ago no one had reasonable cause to be idle, now many are forced into that state by these new appliances coming so universally into use in competition with hand labour.

I was very anxious after my arrival here to see the Falls of Niagara and was glad to hear that they were only 90 miles distant having read so often about them when at home as being one of the wonders of the world. The Grand Trunk Railway runs several excursion trains there every summer. The fare is $1.00 there and back to Guelph. The train starting early and being 5 miles distant from Guelph I durst not trust myself in bed lest I should oversleep the time and stayed up all night. The train started at 6 a.m. and arrived at the Suspension Bridge at 11 a.m. As we approached near the noise increased like distant thunder and at the bridge the sound was one continuous roar. We were 2 miles from the head of the falls and the spray fell at that distance like a gentle shower. I walked up, and at each step the thundering sound increased, when in a bend in the road they burst to view. I stood still for some minutes in profound admiration. I felt near to God and lifted up into a feeling of deep humility and good nature that I cannot describe. I have never read of anyone, however

distinguished in the world of letters, that has expressed his feelings in words to convey the feeblest approach to that which they demand. I think the reason is, they feel the feebleness of words to convey the same. I have also spoken to others who have seen them and they never attempted to describe them, but I have read on their countenance that which they could not express. There never was a painting of them that did them justice, nor ever will be. It would lack the sound that stuns the ears and the ever turbulence of the moving mass of waters. I was deeply moved also, and a tear fell from my eyes when I beheld the flag of my beloved country floating proudly on the bank of this world-renowned river. It brought me nearer home, and I remembered with a feeling of pride that I was an Englishman.

William Wood goes on for page after page in the description of the vast areas of honey bush, the birds and other wild life, living conditions, unemployment, school and church life, etc. He warns future immigrants that in order to succeed, it is necessary that they shall have "borne the yoke in their youth, for they will have to put it on in Canada and pull for all they are worth. No soft handed or soft headed darlings need apply." "The manufacturing industries are scattered over the country and generally are small affairs in their infancy. Their great competitor is England against whose capital and skill, we are as nothing in the balance. Therefore, I hold out no inducement (except what I have previously stated) to the immigrant, to wander amid the snows of Canada, as I have seen some do, searching employment in the winter. Ill clad for such rigorous weather and dupes of emigration agents at home, on whose heads they have poured well-rounded maledictions for their duplicity."

Thousands of quotations are included in the writings of William Wood. Bible truths, Irish jokes, cures for all imaginable diseases, weather notes, political affairs and local situations. His scrap books are true to name containing local pictures, churches and abbeys of the old land, nude women, modern engineering structures, all mixed together in wild confusion. Several first prize cards are included for his pen and ink sketches won at Guelph, Toronto and Rockwood shows.

Here are some of his entries. "It is not government that makes society, it is society that makes government." Henry George.

"Illegitimate birth creates strong and determined character." —Disraeli.

"Many a man is hardly conscious of whether he is a Liberal or a Conservative until he gets into a crowd and hears his neighbours shouting."—Henry George.

"To rise early and to marry young, are what no man ever repents of doing." Luther.

"Believe me, Lady Vere de Vere, From yon blue heaven above us bent, The gardener, Adam and his wife, Smile on the claims of long descent." Tennyson.

Magnificent promises are always to be suspected."—Parker.

"A clean mouth and an honest hand, will take a man through any land."—German.

"Never chase a lie, let it alone and it will run itself to death. I can

work out a good character much faster than anyone can ne me out of it" Beecher.

"How absurd it is to try to make two men think alike on matters of religion Take short views, hope for the best and trust in God" Charles V. Robertson.

"It is no more poss ble to do without a wife than it is to dispense with eat ng and dr nking Conceived, nourished, borne by women, our very being is in a great measure, their be ng It is utterly impossible for us to dissolve ourselves altogether from them" Luther

"The only way to find a friend is to be one" Gems of thought

"The heart benevolent and kind, that most resembles God"—Burns.

"So, let her go, God sent her to debase me And aggravate my folly, who committed to such a viper his most sacred trust, of secrecy, my safety and my l fe" Samson and Del lah, Milton

"The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh Him"

"Two hundred and fifty m llions of the human race in tropical climes, habitually go naked"—Montreal Star

"'God s Love, a summary of the scriptures." Hofman

"The religion that is noisy in church s sometimes very quiet n places where it is most needed"

"What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly w th thy God" Micah.

"I have learned, in whatever state I am, therewith to be content."—Phillippians

"Thou shalt keep him n perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee."—Isa ah.

"Faith is the means of union to Christ." Balfour.

"Our religion should be personal, not partaking of any creed to support it." Wood

"Every heart conta ns perfection's germ" Shelley

"Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" Eccles.

"There is a Dev l dwells in man as well as a Divinity" Carlyle.

"It is the mind that makes the body rich" Shakespeare

"Though I look old, yet I am strong, For in my youth I never did apply Hot and rebellious liquors in my blood, Nor did not with unbashful forehead woo the means of weakness and deb lity, Therefore my age is as a lusty winter, Frosty but kindly" Shakespeare.

"Every man, however good, has yet a better man within h.m."—Humboldt

"Plato, whom the Christians know as one of the greatest philosophers, said that young men and women should see each other naked in order to be able to see what sort of person they are to marry." (From Lotus Time In Japan)—Finsk.

"Now, as in the days of old, nations or individuals are impoverished of flourishing, in the ratio of their obedience to the great moral laws." —Wood.

Apparently William Wood or his fam ly occupied the little cottage down Valley Road for some 80 years. His writings show that the many

years he spent as a cripple were spent in the company of great philosophers of the past, in study of the Word of God and in recording his findings for others to share. Perhaps he should be termed The Rockwood Philosopher.

## ROCKWOOD CEMETERY

It is recorded that John Harris owned 50 acres on the East half of Lot 3, Concession 4, now known as The Academy Lot, on which he erected a frame building to be used as a place of worship for Friends, and also set apart two acres for a cemetery in which many of the early settlers are buried. In February 1928 negotiations were under way for the conveyance of the cemetery from The Society of Friends to the Police Village and on December 7th, 1931 an agreement was signed by William Richard and Edgar W. Harris, Trustees for the Rockwood Meeting of Friends, and by the Police Village Trustees, by which the cemetery was conveyed to the Police Village. The Society of Friends had planted numerous trees around the Cemetery and had otherwise cared for the property in such a manner that it was readily convertible into the beauty spot it is today. The Village Trustees immediately commenced further improvements by the laying out of flower beds and the planting of shrubs and trees. The cemetery was placed on a perpetual care basis, and while the necessary capital for this purpose was being accumulated, current improvements were financed for a few years from village taxes. Since regular inspection of cemeteries commenced in the 1930's, Rockwood Cemetery has always been classified as "excellent". Much of the credit for the beautiful cemetery we now view from No. 7 Highway should go to the Trustees of the Society of Friends who laid the foundations. In later years among the many who have contributed to its beautification, perhaps the most energetic and able were the late Mr. Fred Smith and the late Mr. John Lister.

## ROCKWOOD SHOW

Rockwood Agricultural Society flourished for many years previous to the advent of the automobile. The Society acquired beautiful grounds on the hill in the village and Rockwood Show Day was probably the greatest Fall event in the village. The motor car brought Acton, Fergus, Erin, Guelph and Toronto so much nearer that in the increased competition, Rockwood Show fell by the wayside. While the Show passed out, the beautiful grounds remained and on April 28th, 1931 they were conveyed to the Police Village by Thos. G. Hutchinson, Pres., Arch. McNabb, Sec., and Sims McLean, Director. Many uses have been found for the property, perhaps the most noticeable is the use as a Ball Park with bleachers erected by the village. Community affairs of all sorts are held in the grounds, including the annual township school picnic when the blazing colour of over 300 children in sunny enjoyment is a pleasure to the eye. The old Show office has been moved by the Fire Brigade to the rear of the Fire Hall and is being used as a club house. The Agricultural Building has been re-built and is now used for storage, particularly by the school board, who can order a car of coal at a time by using the building to store some of it.

## ROCKWOOD TOWN HALL

Why should a village have a "Town Hall"? This question was asked by Judge R. L. McKinnon when he was arranging for the hearing of an assessment appeal in 1933. Why not "The Village Hall", or "The Township Hall"? The answer appears to be found in the original deed for the hall dated March 31st 1870 when Henry Strange, Esquire and his wife Elizabeth Ann Strange deeded the property to be known as "Rockwood Town Hall" Lot to David Clark, Alexander Nairn and David Shultis, Trustees, for and in consideration of $50.00 of lawful money of Canada the deed covering 12 pages of 9 1/2 x 15 1/2 legal paper. The heavily worded regulations cover the election of trustees and the rights to use the hall by residents of the Village of Rockwood whose boundaries were not established at that time. Consequently, for many years, it was hardly possible to determine who should have a vote in the election of trustees. When the Police Village was erected in 1903 the matter was more clearly defined but there was still some trouble in securing sufficient funds to keep the hall in good condition.

A group calling themselves the "Bachelors and Benedicts" arranged for dances, etc. and working in conjunction with The Women's Institute, arranged for a new floor and other needed improvements. Still the revenues would not quite pay for modern improvements deemed necessary, and means were sought whereby the Village Trustees could take over the administration of the hall. It was found that only by a private Bill of the Ontario Legislature could this be accomplished. At the request of the existing Town Hall trustees the Police Village trustees and the Township Council Mr. Ross A. McEwing M.L.A. for Wellington North kindly piloted a bill through the Provincial House in 1941 vesting the title of the "Rockwood Town Hall" in the Corporation of the Township of Eramosa, in trust for the Trustees of The Police Village of Rockwood. Since the property was acquired for the Trustees of the village new seating, modern lighting and other indoor conveniences have been installed. The hall is used regularly for Township meetings and by many other organizations.

## ROCKWOOD FIRE BRIGADE

On April 25th 1922, the Trustees called for a meeting of the ratepayers in the Town Hall to discuss fire protection. Col. John Mutrie was appointed Fire Chief for the village and 31 persons signed up as a volunteer Fire Brigade. On July 12th the Trustees purchased one double 40 gallon chemical Fire Engine from The R. A. Bickle Co. of Woodstock for $750.00 the engine to be mounted on a trailer for attachment to a motor car. In 1937 the trustees purchased a truck from H. Little for $75.00, on which to mount the fire engine. Up to this time the fire equipment was in cold storage in Winter no provision for heated storage had been made so that the equipment would be immediately available in case of fire in zero weather. By arrangement with the Township Council the County Council and The Department of Highways, and again with the assistance of Mr. Ross A. McEwing M.L.A. part of Church Street was closed and a red brick Fire Hall was built on the closed part. This hall was equipped with an electric heater equipped with a thermostat, so that both truck and fire engine

would be ready for use at all times. The year 1944 saw the purchase of a new truck for $1200.00 from Colonial Motors, on which to mount the fire equipment. In 1949, all new equipment was purchased and mounted on the truck, including a powerful pump and a 300 gallon tank. A new brigade was organized in accordance with Provincial regulations and Bylaw No. 8 of the township council appointed Herbert Saunders Fire Chief of the Rockwood Fire Department. An agreement had been reached between the Police Village Trustees and the Township Council in 1945 whereby the Rockwood Fire equipment was available on call to any fire within the township, the fee of $50.00 for the first hour or part thereof, and $25.00 per hour or part thereof after the first hour to be paid to the village by the township. 1952 Fire Chief, Herb Bolton.

## THE FARMERS' SHED

The Rockwood Rural Shipping Association purchased this land at the corner of Main and Division Streets in 1920 and erected the present Farmers' Shed. This association ceased active operations in the 1930's and in 1941 the Shed was conveyed by deed to the Corporation of the Township of Eramosa.

## ROCKWOOD COMMUNITY CLUB

This Club was organized about 1945 and has published a most interesting monthly paper called Rockwood Community Bulletin for several years. It has also been active in the organization of winter sports for juveniles and particularly active in caring for juvenile entertainment on Hallowe'en. Assistance and co-operation has also been extended to other organizations such as the Rockwood Band, Ball Club, Tennis Club, etc. The Rockwood Band, operating under The Rockwood Musical Society, was organized about 1946 under the able leadership of Mr. Sid Ecott of Guelph, a Bandmaster of long experience. An early Bowling Club was in existence about 1920 with greens near the river. These were unused for some years until about 1940 when they were repaired and equipped by a new club. About 1944, after the gravestones had been removed from St. John's Cemetery to the cairn in Rockwood Cemetery, the bowling club made arrangements with the officials of St. John's Church to level the cemetery and construct the present Bowling Green. There were Tennis Courts near the river in the 1920's and later on the front of the property of Mr. John R. Richardson, just across the Highway from George Street. About 1939, new courts were built just opposite the Post Office, but the war called away so many people of the tennis age that little use has been made of this project to date. Scouts and Cubs are active in the village in 1950, thanks to the untiring and worthwhile efforts of a few devoted leaders. Orangemen, Temperance Society and Workmen all appear to have been active in Rockwood in early days, each of these societies or orders having their own halls for meetings. Masonry has been strong in the village for years, but without village organization, individuals joining Acton or Guelph lodges as opportunity offered. Rockwood and district members who have been honored with the Mastership of Walker Lodge, Acton, include Arch. McNabb, Norms H. Black, Sims McLean, Wm. H. Hortop, Chas. A. Derby, while the present

clerk, S. S. Royce was Master of a Guelph lodge. Support of the Canadian Legion, like that of the Masons, has also been divided between Acton and Guelph, but Acton Branch has been most active in the arrangement of Remembrance Day Services at Rockwood. The Cenotaph at the corner of Guelph and Main Streets on land donated by St. John's Church, was erected by the Township Council in 1919, and the wings to the memory of the fallen in the Second World War were erected by the 1946 Council.

Municipal Clerks are regarded with much suspicion in Eramosa. James Peters, Clerk, was arrested as a rebel at Speedside in 1837, and the clerks of Guelph and Eramosa came under suspicion in 1941. Almost at the outbreak of war in 1939, Railway Police called on the Clerk of Eramosa for assistance in securing guards for the dizzy high railway bridge from rock to rock over the Speed valley just east of Rockwood station. Veterans were secured and were on guard for some months. On a beautiful Saturday evening, after the guards had been removed, the clerk and his son took a walk to inspect some property on the opposite side of the river and on the opposite side of the railway. As usual, they stopped to inspect and admire the wonderful structure erected about 1851 that carries the railway over the gorge. They could be seen from Rockwood station but not identified. They were near the bridge as Train 36 sped past toward Toronto, and were returning some time later when they laid their heads on the rails to listen for possible approaching trains. This was too much for guardians of railway property at Rockwood Station. Word was sent to Acton for Train No. 37 to stop and examine the bridge before crossing. The clerk and his son, sitting on a fence waiting for 37 to cross the bridge, were surprised to see her stop and to get a laugh from the engineer as one of the train crew gingerly walked over the bridge ahead of the train.

Fortunately or unfortunately, two Rockwood passengers on the train recognized the suspicious characters and informed railway authorities when they alighted at Rockwood Station later in the evening. Railway and Provincial police arrived but no one seemed to be able to remember who the two suspicious characters were. On Monday morning a mail clerk asked the Rockwood mail contractor if the two men had been caught and on being told no, replied "I guess they were just out to enjoy a bottle of cognac." This story reached the ears of Col. W. M. Head, Postmaster at Everton and a former Clerk of Eramosa, who, knowing that the suspicious characters were both abstainers, did not hesitate to rib his successor about that bottle of cognac. The Clerk of Guelph City had been accustomed for years to take the train to Rockwood, enjoy a walk around the country and return to Guelph on a later train and thus was a familiar figure to older Rockwood residents. Just about this time he alighted from the train and as he proceeded to follow it towards the bridge, he was noticed and immediately ordered back by railway authorities. It is a coincidence that all three of these clerks were Englishmen who had emigrated to spend most of their lives in Canada.

## INDUSTRY

It is strange that so few of the many industries started in Rockwood have survived. In 1950, The Rockwood Lime Co. is still going strong and

The Railway Viaduct at Rockwood, built in 1851

Schneiders Sweets are very active Many of the earliest small industries would naturally pass out by reason of the change in demand for goods, but of the industries operating during or within the past 50 years, it is well known that practically all of them were noted for the excellency of their products The greatest industry to be established in the village was the woollen mill of Harris & Co and Harris woollens were known far and wide as a quality product Rockwood time to-day as 50 years ago is rated tops in the building trade Richardson shingles of 40 years ago were reliable and in great demand Schneiders sweets ask any kiddie or call in to be welcomed by the genial Mr Schneider and be presented with a sample. L R Guild & Sons Poultry Breeders were known across the continent as breeders and distributors of the best in poultry Since the closing of the woollen mill William Harris has specialised in Gladioli years ago experts have said that his Annual Catalogue was only surpassed by those of the larger seed companies

The Schneider Sweet factory was originally a one-storey skating rink owned by John M Pasmore the other two storeys were added for a battery factory which was very short lived The V T Smith Co operated a tire boot and patch factory there for several years and ran the Terrace Gardens dance hall The M P Barry Co at one time were probably the largest exporters of turnips in Canada as many as ten cars have been seen loading at one time at Rockwood Station The new Barry & Co waxing plant is now located on Canadian National Railway Co grounds and is managed by Grattan Barry a son of the founder of the business

John M Pasmore a son of the first Postmaster owner of the old rink and of a general store was quite a character Uncle John to most of the countryside He had a barrel of mangold seed in his store and was asked by a customer "What variety is this John?" Mr Pasmore came to the barrel and grasping a handful of the seed allowed it to trickle from his hand into the barrel saying That is Windsor Globe that is Mammoth Long Red that is Sugar Beet that is Elephant that is Sugar Mangold that is Yellow Giant Another customer examining a brush asked "Will you guarantee this to be hair John? No replied Mr Pasmore "but I'll guarantee it not to be hair He was nearly seventy and had no children when he met Dr E F McCullough with Mrs E Wilson the well-known maternity nurse hurrying down the street one morning to answer a call "Just a minute Doctor" said Mr Pasmore "What is it" said the doctor rather impatiently I just wondered Doctor when you are going to bring something to my house in that little black bag" said John M Pasmore

Rockwood has about the same population as in 1870 there are now 5 Groceries 2 Feed Stores 3 Garages 2 Hardwares several Insurance Agents Implement shop Electrical Store, Barber Bank Butcher, Doctor, Baker, Shoe Store Real Estate Agency Coal Merchant Cold Storage Plant, Chopping Mill and Dairy There are four churches with only the United Church minister and the Roman Catholic priest being resident

There is an intense personal pride and loyalty in the little village exhibited by practically all of the older residents Typical of this village pride is the story told of Cliff Meadows, "Mayor" in 1950 Rockwood really has

no mayor but Cliff is chairman of the Police Village Trustees, so his authority corresponds in a way to that of a mayor of a city or town. He is a Rockwood boy who has carried the mail on R R No 2 for a quarter of a century with hardly a day missed except for really bad roads for many years he has enjoyed the reputation of producing the finest onions in Rockwood Cliff enjoyed a motor trip to Calgary in the summer of 1950 and on his return he had to answer the usual questions about the trip, the country through which he passed etc His expressive vocabulary was equal to the occasion "We were four days in reaching Calgary" said he, "three of them we spent passing one big hill I thought the thing was carved on the side of the car" Pointing to the garden at the "Meadows" booth, Cliff continued "I wouldn't trade one shovelfull of that soil for Northern Michigan half of Minnesota and all of North DaKota"

The first Postmaster at Rockwood was Robert Pasmore, who operated a store and Post Office in a log building at the corner of Harris and Main Streets He was a class leader in the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Rockwood and a great grandfather of the present leader of the opposition in the Provincial parliament, E B Jolliffe K C The site of the first Post Office is now the property of Mrs Annie Harris (died 1951), also a descendent of the first Postmaster Later Mr Pasmore kept Post Office in the store now occupied by Mr Archie Hear

Hugh Black a Disciple local preacher was the second Postmaster using the present Post Office building which he rented from Mr Eli Stout, a retired tinsmith Mr Stout was a descendent of Eli Stout a class leader and one of the founders of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Rockwood Some descendents of this original Eli Stout are Mr Frank Stout, who owns the mansion in the centre of the village built by Squire Henry Strange, Mrs A K Thomas wife of the founder of the only dairy now situated in the village and Joanne Stout who produces and conducts the familiar The Way I Heard It at 1.05 each morning on the Guelph station, CJOY

Mr Black died about 1909 and Col John Mutrie was Postmaster until 1928 Col Mutrie was an ex-M P P and a former Warden of the County, he purchased the property from the Eli Stout estate Frank Day became Postmaster in 1928 purchasing the building from the Col Mutrie estate, and was succeeded by his son George who became Postmaster and acquired the property in 1945 Complete interior fittings, including lock boxes etc were installed in 1952 The site of the present Post Office was first occupied by The Commercial Hotel a log building that was burned about 1860 William Stovel built the present building, calling it The American Hotel Before becoming a Post Office it served as the residence and office of a Doctor and later as a tinsmith shop

The well known Root's Hardware building on Main Street, was the original St John's Church standing at the corner of Guelph and Main Streets just where the War Memorial now stands It was moved across the street about 1880 when the present St John's Church was built it was operated as a hardware store by Hector Munro The present owner S R Peart purchased it about 40 years ago and ran the hardware business for many years

Two buildings near the 7th line seem to have disappeared entirely the Disciple Church near Lloyd Johnston's gate and Dolmage's Methodist Church just inside E. L. Dadd's gate. Both disappear from the available records in the 1860's when Everton Disciples Church and Crewson's Corner's Methodist Church (Bethesda) were opened.

## ROCKWOOD VILLAGE, EARLY CENTRE OF EDUCATION

(From The Hamilton Spectator, September 22, 1951)

Rockwood, a village seven miles north-east of Guelph, is a pleasant place with numerous fine modern buildings, yet of the hundreds of visitors who stop there during the summer, perhaps nine-tenths are attracted by its past rather than its present. For in Rockwood village lives a ghost of other days, a friendly spirit with nothing about him to cause shrinking or fear. From two different aspects Rockwood is fascinating: there is the valley of the east branch of the Speed River, with its curious and towering rock formations and a bona fide "Devil's kitchen", a very large cave; this valley contains the remains of a once famous woollen mill; and there are the remains of what was in the early days one of Upper Canada's most famous seats of learning, the Rockwood Academy.

The Harris woollen mill, built beside a dam on the Speed river, not so long ago was famous the country over for the manufacture of yarn, blankets, socks, etc. The farmers brought their own wool and took away the sort of blankets they liked best, not so fancy as the store blankets, perhaps, but very strong and very warm. Came a stranger and purchased the mill; the people hoped that under new management it might run more successfully than ever. Alas, the stranger's design was to shut the mill down, so that it might no longer compete against another manufacturing plant in which he was interested. The buildings still seem in fairly good repair, but the pulse no longer beats in the picturesque valley.

The building once known as Rockwood Academy still stands in its spacious yard, gloomy with overlapping spruce trees, about half a mile from the village. It was one of the most famous boarding schools for boys in the province a hundred odd years ago. It seems a very out-of-the-way place to establish a school. The real reason for its being built where it was is that it was first run by Quakers, a little group of whom had taken up land as farmers in this district.

We were fortunate in coming to visit at this place as friends, not merely as sight-seers. The present occupants of the house are William Gordon and wife, the hospitable "Margaret" who welcomed us in and showed us over the stately ruin from end to end. For the Gordons only occupy parts of the vast stone building which in its palmy days housed from 75 to 100 boys of public and high school age. How its walls must have echoed to the laughter and cheer, how its broad stairs must have creaked to a hundred pairs of feet hurrying down to the basement dining room!

We enjoyed a real visit at Rockwood Academy. We inspected the wide halls, the old class-rooms and the apartments which had been the private living rooms of the principal and his family. We wrote our names on one of

the old blackboards. We lingered in what had been the library, touched the desk, opened the book-cupboards reverently. Little has been altered, except by the gnawing tooth of time which eats without ceasing. There is increasing decrepitude everywhere, but the walls of native limestone still stand defiant of summer thunderstorms and winter blizzards and will continue to stand for a long time yet. The rows of spruce, which the first owner put into the ground as saplings, now sweep the lawn and interlace overhead, making it impossible to get a picture of the house except from the rear.

## WILLIAM WETHERALD, FIRST PRINCIPAL

As mentioned before, there was a strong Quaker influence in this district. Its first settler was William Smith, a Friend, who settled on the land in 1818. On John Harris' lot half a mile from the village, a Quaker church was built. The brothers, James, Alexander and John Hill, must also be mentioned among the first arrivals. Therefore, the strong educational movement noted here was under the direction of the Friends. Mrs. North, a sister of John Harris, opened a select school for the young during the 1840's. She conducted the school in her own house. Before it finished its career another movement started. Rockwood Academy was the product of one man's mind. It was opened by a young teacher, William Wetherald, for boys and young men, half a mile east of the village, near the original Friend's meeting house.

Wetherald had received his education at Ackworth, Yorkshire, one of the leading Quaker schools of England. He had particularly attractive teaching gifts. Started in a humble frame building, the fame of the place grew until it became imperative to secure a much larger building.

The courses of study were not extensive, but the boys who came there had the determination to make the best possible use of their lives. Tuition and board cost $21, for a term of three months. As the school grew in reputation the expenses also increased, but were always moderate. Mr. Wetherald founded the institution to meet a real need, not for personal aggrandizement. He was singularly lacking in the art of pushing ahead his own interests. A man of striking and impressive personality, with keen, sharp eyes and well poised head, for years he did all the work of managing and teaching without a helper. Finally he called an assistant, James Forrest. Wetherald not only lived for his scholars, he lived with them. To be near him was to become cultured, for he communed daily with the best English writers, especially the Victorian poets.

Mrs. Margaret Gordon gave the following story of Rockwood Academy from clippings she had saved from newspapers.

In 1847 the home and schoolhouse of Mrs. North was completely destroyed by fire from an over-heated stove-pipe. The whole family and 30 pupils escaped miraculously. They took up their lessons in a neighbouring house next day, as though nothing had happened. In 1853 William Wetherald opened his school for boys, which became so famous that it attracted students from all over the province. John Harris owned 50 acres, called the Academy lot, on which he erected a frame building to be used as a place

of worship by the friends, and also set apart two acres for a cemetery in which the early settlers are buried. Mr Harris married Miss Jane Wetherald in 1836 The place was first called Brothertown but was soon renamed Rockwood.

Wetherald sold the place in 1864, with the intention of living in Philadelphia, but returned in two years to settle at Fenwick in the Niagara Peninsula He was succeeded in the principalship of Rockwood Academy by Donald McCaig and later by A. McMillan The school was carried on with success until the Government system of high schools was established. From competition Mr McMillan found the going hard and the famous old institution closed its doors in 1883

## JAMES J HILL, RAILWAY MAGNATE

William Wetherald was fortunate in having among his pupils at Rockwood Academy, J J Hill a native of Guelph Jimmy Hill was known as a good student, the dark-skinned boy with the plump face, who became a railroad king and lived at St Paul, Minn Mr Hill was always ready to acknowledge the debt he owed his teacher and later sought to offer part payment in a rather striking way When he became president of the Canadian Northern Railway, with sons of his own at the school age, he invited Mr Wetherald to pay him a visit to his palatial home in St. Paul He sent a railway ticket and intimated that spending money would be forthcoming. Mr Wetherald accepted the invitation and was entertained royally for two weeks.

At the close, Mr. Hill said

"I had two reasons, sir, for inviting you here. I wished to pay my respects to you and to show in some tangible way what your influence has meant to me And I wish to ask you if you will remain here and teach my boys, giving them the same kind of instruction that you imparted to me."

It was a big offer, but Mr Wetherald, who by this time had become a minister of the Friends' church at Fenwick, refused to give up his ministerial work for more lucrative but worldly pursuits. Thereby he showed how little worldly prosperity entered into his calculations

Mr. Hill was disappointed but said

"Send me one of your sons to tutor my boys."

A son accepted the post. Soon he became paymaster of one of the divisions of the Canadian Northern Railway. Mr. Hill speedily put him right to the top.

## IN DEMAND AS A SPEAKER

Meanwhile the father continued as minister of the little church near Fenwick. He conducted services all over the district and was much in demand as a speaker at garden parties and other church gatherings. His tall, spare figure and noble head crowned with grey hair was a familiar sight on many platforms. He was a great gentleman, the soul of honour, fascinating in presence and possessed of a ready wit.

"When he read a hymn or a psalm you thought you had heard a whole sermon," reminisced a Fenwick man, who had often sat under his spell.

Many neighbours could contribute stories of the jokes he told and the pungent sayings that came readily from his lips, the repartee that was shot back without a moment's hesitation to an opponent's thrust. He was the lion of their public gatherings. Once he played a chronic complainer, who was bemoaning this earth as a vale of tears from which he would fain be away.

"It's a good earth and I want to stay here as long as I can," Wetherald declared amid laughter, for all present knew that the pessimist did not mean what he said but was filled with great dread at the thought of death.

Somebody asked Mr. Wetherald what he thought about reciprocity when it was a live question before the first world war.

He replied impressively

"If religion teaches me anything, it teaches me that all men are brothers. We have no right to raise barriers between members of a family. Nations are only big families, so why raise national barriers?"

He spoke with so much dignity that the argument fell dead and the discussion was closed

During a visit to England William Wetherald died and was buried there. He was father of the distinguished Canadian poet, Miss Ethelwyn Wetherald

## SOME GRADUATES OF OLD TIME FAMOUS ROCKWOOD ACADEMY

1927. Mr. William Burns, Rockwood, supplied the late Mr James Grant with the following notes, including a list of names of those who, within his knowledge, had at one time and another, attended Rockwood Academy

Wm. Wetherald started Rockwood Academy and sold to McCaig and McMillan. Assistant Teachers James Forrest, Mr. Moyles or Miles

Dentists Dr. Jabus Coram, Dr. John Coram.

Lawyers: Richard Collins, Australia, Jeffry McCarthy, Toronto; George Weir, Dresden, D. O. Cameron, Toronto, Alex Dunbar, Guelph.

Preachers. Rev. Frank Farries, Ottawa, Rev Dr Solomon Cleaver, Toronto; Rev. Richard Large, Rev. Dr. T. Albert Moore, (later Moderator, United Church).

Notable Persons. H P. Moore, Editor and Proprietor, Acton Free Press, A. S. Hardy, one-time Premier of Ontario, Hon. Sir Adam Beck; J. J. Hill, Railway Magnate, John Richard Harris, who built Rockwood Woollen Mill; Dr Wm. Tytler, School Inspector; Henry Corby, M.P., Belleville; D. D. Christie, Guelph.

Expert Ball Players Wm. Sunley, Pitcher for Guelph Maple Leafs; Samuel Jackson, Rochester, N.Y.

Doctors Dr James McCullough, Toronto, Dr Henry Strange, Hamilton, Dr Julius Mickle, London, Eng., Dr Robert Farries, New York, Dr Adam Farries, New York, Dr Dryden, Guelph Dr W Julius Passmore, Toronto, Dr Fred Hood, Toronto

Another interesting item occurring in the notes regarding Rockwood is the following "J U McKenzie, the first Station Master in Rockwood, taught Thos A Edison telegraphing when McKenzie was stationed on the G.T.R. near Port Huron." Mr McKenzie, however, did not attend the Academy (Note—This list might be greatly extended by the inclusion of names of many men who received an important part of their education at the old school and afterwards were successes in life.)

### J. V. McAree, Columnist, Globe and Mail

The Macarees, for whom Rev C H Drinkwater inquires in 1890, were forefathers of the famous columnist of the Mail and Empire and for many years up to 1950, of The Globe and Mail John McAree was born in Armagh, Ireland and had a farm in Eramosa as recently as 1885 His son, John, who became a Civil Engineer married Rebecca Fleming and their son is J V McAree John McAree later married Miss Emery a daughter of this union is Miss Grace McAree of the Department of Botany, University of Toronto The original John McAree had 5 daughters Martha never married Elizabeth, Annie, Kate and Sarah married into families having such familiar Eramosa names as Chambers, Dickson, Talbot and Loughrin

### Ethelwyn Wetherald

This outstanding poetess, born at Rockwood Academy on April 26th, 1857, the 6th of 11 children, was seven years of age when she left Rockwood, but many years later she wrote of her disregard of mosquitoes when gathering raspberries in the wild woods around Rockwood. Her grandfather, John Wetherald, who came to Canada in 1834, had lost his wife, Isabel Thistlethwaite, in Yorkshire, England, in 1826 William, his son, the founder of Rockwood Academy and the father of the poet, was born at Healaugh, Yorkshire, in 1820, the ninth of eleven children

Miss Wetherald's maternal grandparents were natives of Ireland, her grandmother, the former Miss Sarah Harris was a refined and cultured governess in the north of Ireland employed by a wealthy family, when the attentions of a young and ardent wooer by the name of Balls, who was thirteen years her junior, so embarrassed and agitated her that she sought escape by resigning and voyaging to Canada The young man was not so easily shaken, however, for he promptly followed and succeeded shortly in making her a pioneer's wife Later, Mrs. Balls opened a backwoods school and received a grant from the government She was an excellent teacher and disciplinarian Her husband played the fiddle and was popular in his family and with the neighbours He raised wheat, and about the year 1840 won a prize of $9.00 at the Guelph Fall Fair for the best bushel of that grain Every kernel was hand picked by himself and his three children Also he interested himself in raising chickens, making maple sugar, and in hunting and shooting wolves Mrs. Balls was reticent and dignified The old

country custom of five o'clock tea was retained by her, and Miss Wetherald (1931) has still the teapot, cream ewer and sugar bowl that she used. The maiden name of Miss Wetherald's mother was Jemima Harris Balls. She was born at Rockwood a few miles from Guelph and was married in her eighteenth year.

William Wetherald the father of our poet attended Ackworth School, an institution of The Society of Friends for four years before coming to Upper Canada. The discipline was severe and holidays were few but notwithstanding he left this school with a genuine love of knowledge and with his ambition aroused and quickened. As he was not strong physically, it was his desire to become a teacher and so he was detected sometimes in the fields working out mathematical problems while the team and plough were resting. For several years he taught a district school and the minute book of No. 4 Eramosa, later No. 8, showing that he taught there in 1849 and 1850, is a building now the residence of Mr. George Ingles, just outside Rockwood Police Village limits on Harris Street. After his marriage he opened a Boarding School at Rockwood in 185[illegible]. (Four years later it became the Rockwood Academy with a large stone building.) In December 1857 the Academy had fifty pupils enrolled, two or three assistant teachers, a capable housekeeper with several women helpers and a man to do the chores. It provided also an apartment for the Wetherald family and a well beloved nurse. In September 1864 Mr. Wetherald resigned his principalship to accept the position of Superintendent of Haverford College near Philadelphia. A few years later he returned to Ontario and bought a fruit and dairy farm in Pelham Township near Fenwick in the beautiful Niagara Peninsula. In his later years Mr. Wetherald became an ordained minister of The Society of Friends and devoted himself almost exclusively to his religious duties. By hard study and much reading of classical literature this prominent educator and preacher gained a fine mastery of English which he imparted to his children. His distinguished daughter acknowledges with loving gratitude her indebtedness to him. As a writer, Miss Wetherald won her first prominence in the years 1887-89 when she contributed articles frequently to the Toronto Globe. Each article was about a column in length and was signed by the nom de plume Bel Thistlethwaite, a contraction of the maiden name of her paternal grandmother. In 1911 Sir Wilfred Laurier, while speaking in the House of Commons in favour of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, quoted from Miss Wetherald:

> "My orders are to fight! Then I, I bleed or fall,
> Or strongly win: what matters it? God only doth prevail!
> The servant craveth naught: Except to serve with might,
> I was not told to win or lose: My orders are to fight!"

### Mrs. Leeming Carr

Mrs. Leeming Carr, the author of "Cupid and the Candidate", the gripping story of love and politics entwined in an election campaign of horse and buggy days in Ontario, was the wife of Dr. Leeming Carr, former Conservative M.P.P. for Wentworth in Ontario. She was the granddaughter of Alexander Anderson, one of the famous pioneer Disciple preachers of

Everton, and was born at Rockwood on Feb. 17th, 1864. A prolific writer, she contributed much to "Wentworth Landmarks" in the Hamilton Spectator and was active in the Wentworth Historical Society and the East End War Relief Society of Hamilton. While living at Stoney Creek, Mrs. Carr sometimes used the pen-name Tony Reek. It is recorded by Reuben Butchart in "Old Everton" that Alexander Anderson was able to play the violin "right handily" but he burned it when convinced that its use was detrimental to the spiritual welfare of himself and his brethren in the church. We remember some 40 years ago when Rev. Thomas Clark was minister of Crewson's Corners Methodist Church that he was asking for approval of the use of violins in the worship service. He was an old-fashioned Irish Methodist and a good friend of John Gibbons, of Rockwood, also intensely Irish, but a Roman Catholic. Rev. Thomas R. Clark hated drink, cards and dancing, and was no pussyfoot. "Well," he said, "The devil makes great use of the fiddle for his own wicked ends, and if there is good music in a violin, I see no reason why he should have a monopoly, we can use them in the Lord's service."

### Miss Emma Cripps

This lady, a faithful member of Everton Disciple Church, lived at Crewson's Corners and was a daughter of Paul Cripps, the early settler on Lot 3, Concession 7 Eramosa, and connected with the family of Kribbs, the early millers of Eden Mills. Paul Cripps died on Lot 3 in 1909, aged about 90 years so he can hardly be the Paul Cribbs mentioned in Joshua Norrish's History of Nassagaweya at Chapter 13. "The first piece of machinery erected in the township was a sawmill built by Paul Cribbs on the East corner of Lot 32 in the 6th concession in the year 1829, and there are some parts of the old fabric to be seen there yet." From the site of this mill to the home where Paul Cripps died is just over a mile, so probably there is a connection. Miss Emma Cripps was the writer of much choice poetry, now carefully preserved by the Wellington County Historical Society, poetry dealing chiefly with religious matters and the beauties of nature.

### The Cromaboo Mail Carrier

This book is aptly described in "That Inside Page" of The Fergus News-Record of February 7th, 1949, by Dr. Hugh Templin. "The Cromaboo Mail Carrier, the wild novel about early days in Guelph and Erin or some other unidentified town in Wellington County, is arousing interest. The University of Western Ontario would like to have a copy for its library. We'd like one for our library, too. If any reader has a copy he would sell, let us know." We have reason to believe that Dr. Templin and the University were successful in securing copies. While idling among old books in the long established bookbinding plant of Frank Nunan in Guelph we found a copy. Eramosa is not mentioned in the book, but most of its characters cross the township numberless times in the thrilling drama written by "Jones" or "J. T. J." The book deserves mention in this history, not only because the mail route mentioned crosses Eramosa to this day and much of the text is devoted to actual travel on the road, but because of the vivid description of pioneer life of the period. The book is said to have been

written by a Miss Mary Leslie, but it was feared that its publication might cause trouble through its candid analysis of the character of local residents, so it is said that the author's family stopped the sale of the book after some copies had reached the public. Dated Guelph, Ontario, September 1878, printed by J. H. Hackning, it opened with a terrible indictment of the village of Erin. Chapter the First commences: "Cromaboo is the most blackguard village in Canada, and is settled by the lowest class of Irish, Highland Scotch and Dutch. It consists of seven taverns, six churches, and about one hundred shabby frame houses built on little gravelly mounds. Fights are frequent, drunkenness flourishes, vice abounds, more tobacco is smoked there than in any village of the same size in the Dominion, swearing is so common that it passes unnoticed, and there is an illegitimate child in nearly every house, in some two, in others three, in one six, and the people think it no sin."

About the only places mentioned by their real names are Hamilton and the Beverly swamp. Guelph is called Gibbeline, Ospringe is Ostrander, Erin is Cromaboo. The name of the hero is Robert Hardacre Smith, whose unknown father turns out to be Sir Robert Hardacre. Other names that the author played with were the Gibbeling lawyer, Jackson, the doctor, Meldrum, Peter Crutch, the fiery Methodist minister, and the settler, Root. Gibbeline must be Guelph, for the Beverly swamp is crossed on the way from Hamilton. Gibbeline is also the mail centre reached by the government grave road from Cromaboo, passing through Ostrander, and the author says that the Credit Valley Railway later passed through Cromaboo. Other identification is easy for anyone familiar with the Government gravel Road, now No. 24 Highway. Reaching Ostrander on the second line, from Gibbeline by teatime with a cutter over heavy snow, and getting to Root's on the 7th in the evening, then driving with a team to Cromaboo, all ties in nicely concerning time and distance. The attack on the mail carrier, in the swamp midway between Ostrander on the 2nd and Cromaboo on the 9th, fits in well with the 6th Line swamp. The high hill overlooking Ostrander on the way to Gibbeline is readily recognized as one of the two biggest hills on the road near the present residence of Miss Ada Currie, the genial lady who has done so much for the preservation of Wellington County history.

# Everton

There are many descriptions of this beauty spot, perhaps the best, certainly the most poetic, is by Rev. J. P. McLeod, given elsewhere in this work. Reuben Butchart describes it in "Old Everton", more particularly from a denominational standpoint; it was almost the birthplace of the Disciples in Canada (Church of Christ). 'Lovell's Directory' corrected to January 1st, 1871, describes it as: 'A thriving village on a branch of The Grand River, Township of Eramosa, County of Wellington. It contains flouring and saw mills, a stave factory, tannery and potash works. Distant from Rockwood, a station of The Grand Trunk Railway, 4 miles; from Guelph 10 miles, fare 40c, from Toronto 50 miles, from Stratford 59 miles. Mail tri-weekly. Population about 250. Directory: John Blanchard, labourer, Rev. J. Bowie, Presbyterian, Robert Dewar, bricklayer, D. Henderson, Everton Hotel,

Rufus Everts, Flour and Saw Mill, James Gibson, waggonmaker, Gokey and Co, steve factory and cooperage, Geo. Grieve, blacksmith, Robert Grieves, Farmer, Charles Hall John Jesten farmer James Kavanagh, shoemaker Wm Loree blacksmith and waggonmaker Wm Mackie flour mill hand Geo McDonald labourer Wm McGregor waggonmaker Wm Kay, grocer Peter McNevin agricultural implements John McVean shoemaker, Peter L Mitchell cooper John Moon Wm Mutrie blacksmith John Nichol, labourer, Thos Nichol, cabinet maker Geo Ramsbottom, labourer, A. E Richardson miller Thos Richardson carpenter Mrs Ellen Scott, widow, crockery Robt Simons sawyer Peter Stewart farmer Daniel Talbot, teacher, Talbot and Tovell merchants Donald Thompson Wm Torrance, blacksmith Japhet Tovell Postmaster, J Usherwood, hotel keeper Wm Wade, miller Sam Wardon, carpenter, tanner John Webb cooper, Wm Webb, laborer, Russell Wheeler, storekeeper

The following "History of Everton" was the first prize speech delivered by Master Ross Dampier at the Eramosa Township School Fair on Sept 23rd 1932 Ross is now a student for the ministry of the Disciple Church in the U S A He would have ample background for gathering authentic and interesting information concerning Everton and Eramosa, being descended on his mother's side from Wm Hindley, the early pioneer who sympathised with Mackenzie in the rebellion Wm Hindley was an Anglican but several members of the family became Congregational ministers William escaped arrest with the Eramosa "rebels" by hiding in a cellar On his father's side Ross was descended from Levi Henry Damper, one of the pioneers of the Disciples Church East (Eramosa)

"I wish to tell you this afternoon something of the history of the most important village in the township of Eramosa a village noted for the cleverness of its citizens, past, present and future the great variety of its industries and the magnificence of its scenery I do not need to tell this intelligent audience that I refer to my home town of Everton Everton was first called "Hungry Hollow" but we would prefer to call it "Prosperity Corners"

When we study the history of our village, we find that Rufus Everts uncle of Mr Wm Everts, who still lives in our village, and Peter Stewart, great uncle of Councillor John A Stewart, were the first owners of land where our village now stands Some time before 1858 they laid out a town of many streets They must have had great imaginations for they saw avenues where Col Wm Head now harvests heavy fields of oats and busy factories where Arnold Wanless drives his cattle home in the cool of the evening The town plan provided for a market square of an acre or two taken off Mr Stewart's property just above the church This is still common The upper part of the village was called Stewart town, while the lower was Everton, no doubt they hoped that some day there would be twin cities like Minneapolis and St Paul to grace the centre of Old Ontario

For some time the place seemed to prosper and many industries sprung up, it came to have three churches, two hotels, three blacksmith's shops, a grocery store, tailor's shop, implement agency, cabinet maker's shop, carding mill, washing machine factory, cooper shop, stave factory

and a potash plant. There was also a flour, feed and saw mill; these with a church and store and one blacksmith shop are all that remain. It looked at one time as if those dreams were coming true, but alas, the railroad passed us by and unwisely placed its depot in Rockwood. The Provincial Highway also kept to the South (No. 7). Our clever young people drifted away to the city and our industries have followed them; our population, though less than in the older days, still shows as many types; we are just waiting for an L. M. Montgomery or a Joseph C. Lincoln to rise up among us and we will be famous. Although the hydro builder has spoiled some of our trees, we still have a village that could be just as pretty as any in Muskoka. Who knows that we may not yet cheat the village cows of free pasture and establish an aerodrome on the market square that will bring us loads of American summer visitors.

Our school in the past has sent out teachers, nurses, bank clerks, druggists, dentists, doctors, ministers, lawyers, a judge, a university professor and a senator. Who will say that we may not now be training future college presidents, or even Prime Ministers, in School Section No. 7, Eramosa."

That was a first prize speech, ranking first class as a contribution to the history of Everton. Readers will note the variation in the spelling of many names of Eramosa settlers. Dampier was spelled Damper in the earlier days. Cripps was Cribbs, Kribs and Kribbs. McNabb was McNab. Farrish was Farries. It is said that Wm. Farrish who built Farrish's Mill on the 4th Line deliberately changed to Farrish to avoid confusion in the mail. John Butchard is mentioned in the early writings as one of the seven "rebels" arrested in 1837. His grandson, Reuben, the writer of "Old Everton", spells the name Butchart. In an old map printed in London, England, in 1821, Euphrasia Township is spelled Uphrasy. Osprey is Ospry. Adjala is Ajala. Tossorontio is Tosorontio. On this map Toronto is shown only as Little York. Hamilton is not mentioned. Ottawa and Hull are located only by Hull and Nepean Townships. Guelph Township is shown only as Crown Lands and Puslinch as Church Lands, a large tract North of Nichol and Woolwich is shown as Reserved Lands.

Levi Henry Dampier, the grandfather of Ross Dampier, worked with me on Lot 3, Con. 7, Eramosa, in 1911. Alexander Burns lived on lot 4, I think both gentlemen were 71 in that year, so they were born about 1840. Frequently they would enjoy a chat over the line fence and I would listen with both ears to their stories of boyhood days. Alex was born on Lot 3, Con. 6, while Levi Henry had come to Lot 3, Con. 7 at seven years of age, when his mother married Samuel Soper, known as Dr. Soper, the proprietor of "Soper's Salve". I have the old deed by which Samuel Soper purchased the West half of Lot 3 from David Ferrier in 1837 for Seventy-five pounds. David Ferrier's Crown Deed says that he performed some duties on the property in 1819. Alexander Burns and Levi Henry Dampier spent their boyhood on farms on opposite sides of the road and in 1911 they could retail the most interesting stories pertaining to the 40's and 50's. Alex would tell of the coming of the railway in the 50's and how his father got him a ride on one of the first trains; the railway angled right across the Burns 200 acres and the wood yard where the locomotives refuelled was on the corner of Lot 2, so it would be easy to board some train, the

water supply was less than a mile East, near Crewson's Corners. Levi Henry would tell of his parents going to church at Black's gate (East Eramosa Disciples) (about 1½ miles); they would take a yoke of oxen with a stoneboat. There was a box on the stoneboat. Dr. Soper sat facing the oxen and his wife sat with her back to that of her husband. Levi Henry also told stories of the groundhogs they caught for food, afterwards tanning their hides to make good shoe laces.

Another old timer who died a few years ago aged over 80 was Joseph Moore, born and raised on the East half of Lot 4, Concession 7, Eramosa. He has a fund of memories of pioneer days. His father, James, was an early settler, one of the few who lost land through having a line fence in the wrong place for a period of years. James Moore owned land on both sides of the town line, one of his line fences was supposed to run down the centre line of the concession, but having been built through the bush, it had veered enough to give his neighbour about 2 acres. As the land was cleared, the error became discernable. It is today, but a lawsuit determined that the fence had been established long enough to determine the legal boundary. Another interesting lawsuit in the 7th concession determined ownership of a maple tree. This tree was in a corner of a snake fence, consequently it was over the centre line. It leaned over the fence and when it was felled, the woodsmen had to cross the fence to retrieve it. The Court decided that the centre line was the determining factor regarding ownership of the tree, so that one man had his tree cut down free.

One story that Joseph Moore told is easily remembered. He was a boy at home on Lot 4, when families were big, and the town line from Lot 1 at Crewson's Corners to Lot 4 was thickly populated. This would be in the 60's or 70's, when the population of Eramosa reached its unsupportable peak, about 50% greater than it is in 1950. One fine Sunday evening, just after Mr. and Mrs. Moore Sr. had gone to bed, word came to the home that a neighbour down the road had died suddenly. The elder Moores dressed quickly and proceeded to the stricken home, there to meet other neighbours on errands of sympathy and assistance. The younger fry of the various homes, not yet retired for the night, and not feeling like sleeping, also proceeded after their parents, but did not enter the house, Joe Moore said. "We heard that the man had eaten too many cucumbers for supper and had died about dark; we stayed a piece from the door, half wishing we could see the corpse and half afraid that we might." Soon tiring of this procedure, some of the older boys noticed the dead man's horse going down the narrow lane for a drink at the creek. It was one of those lanes about 10 or 12 feet wide, ending so that live stock could drink, but could get no further. When the horse was drinking, some bright mind thought it a good idea to take rails from the snake fence and place them across the narrow lane. So many willing helpers were found that in a short time, rails not only prevented the horse from getting out but also reached over the top, forming a hut. As this was accomplished, the parents began to emerge from the house on their way home, so the youngsters had to make a hurried retreat to get home first. Fortunately, some regretted their foolishness enough to sneak back through the night and rectify matters, avoiding much of the scandal that otherwise might have ensued.

The next day, Monday, six sons of the dead man proceeded to Everton Cemetery to dig the grave. Only about 4 could work at a time, so two proceeded to the hotel at Everton Corners for some whiskey and brought back a plentiful supply. Other trips throughout the forenoon resulted in bringing the gravediggers to a condition where pick and shovel did not always land where they should and quarrels ensued. When the 6 boys left for home at late noon, Joe says the grave resembled pictures he had seen of shell holes in France.

## EVERTON WAS PROSPEROUS VILLAGE AT ONE TIME

***Many Shops Found on the Main Street. History of Village Reviewed at Recent Meeting of Everton W.I.***

(Guelph Mercury, January 9th, 1935)

The following history of Everton was read at a recent meeting of the Everton Women's Institute. Mrs. G. A. Abbott, who had lived in Everton and now lives a short distance away, and Mrs. Mary Loree, a resident of Everton, gave the information and Rev. J. P. McLeod, Pastor of Everton Church, wrote the account. (Ed. note)

Everton is a charming little village situated on either side of a swiftly flowing branch of the Speed River on the Seventh Concession of the Township of Eramosa. In the early days it gave promise of becoming a centre of manufacturing and commercial importance, but the railway, like the priest in the New Testament story, passed by on the one side and the gravelled Highway, like the Levite, passed by on the other, and so there was no good Samaritan to come to the rescue. Its early promise of greatness succumbed to the deadly blows of competition and the village grew tired in the fight against unequal odds and became as Atri of Italy in Longfellow's poem.

"One of those little places that have run
Half up the hill beneath a blazing sun
And then sat down to rest, as if to say
I climb no further upward, come what may."

Nevertheless the story of Everton savours of the romantic. Built on a site of quiet and perennial beauty, with its winding river, swift rapids, deep pot holes, high overhanging rocks, crowned with evergreen, cedar, pine and spruce, surrounded by a rich agricultural country, it has a rich and fertile appearance. It has also given its quota of ambitious personalities to help in the development of the country.

This section of the country was originally in the possession of the Mississauga Indians. On October 18th, 1818, an agreement was made between Hon. William Claus, Deputy Superintendent-General of Indian affairs, and five chiefs of the Mississaugas by which a tract of 648,000 acres was surrendered to the government. This tract included Eramosa, Erin, Garafraxa, and Luther. The Crown lands were given free to settlers who agreed to perform certain settlement duties. After a year and a half residence, the clearing of a tract of some acres and the building of a house, on affidavit before a Justice of the Peace that the law had been complied with, a Crown deed was issued.

The Village of Everton came into being in a section of this tract obtained from the Mississauga Indians. But little is known of the development of the place before 1850 as the Everts family who were the first settlers have left scant records of their achievements. That portion of the property adjacent to the river came into the possession of Rufus eldest son of the original proprietor. He erected a sawmill where the flume now is. He also put up the framework of the present grist and flour mill but being unable to finish it it stood incomplete until William and Simon Plewes expert millers realizing the strategic position of the unfinished mill agreed to complete the structure and put in the necessary machinery in return for the use of the mill for a number of years. At the expiration of the term of agreement the property reverted to Rufus Everts who after a few years sold it to Mr. Henry Hortop one of Eramosa's most prominent citizens. The management of the mills was later given to William eldest son of Henry Hortop who is still in possession and running it successfully.

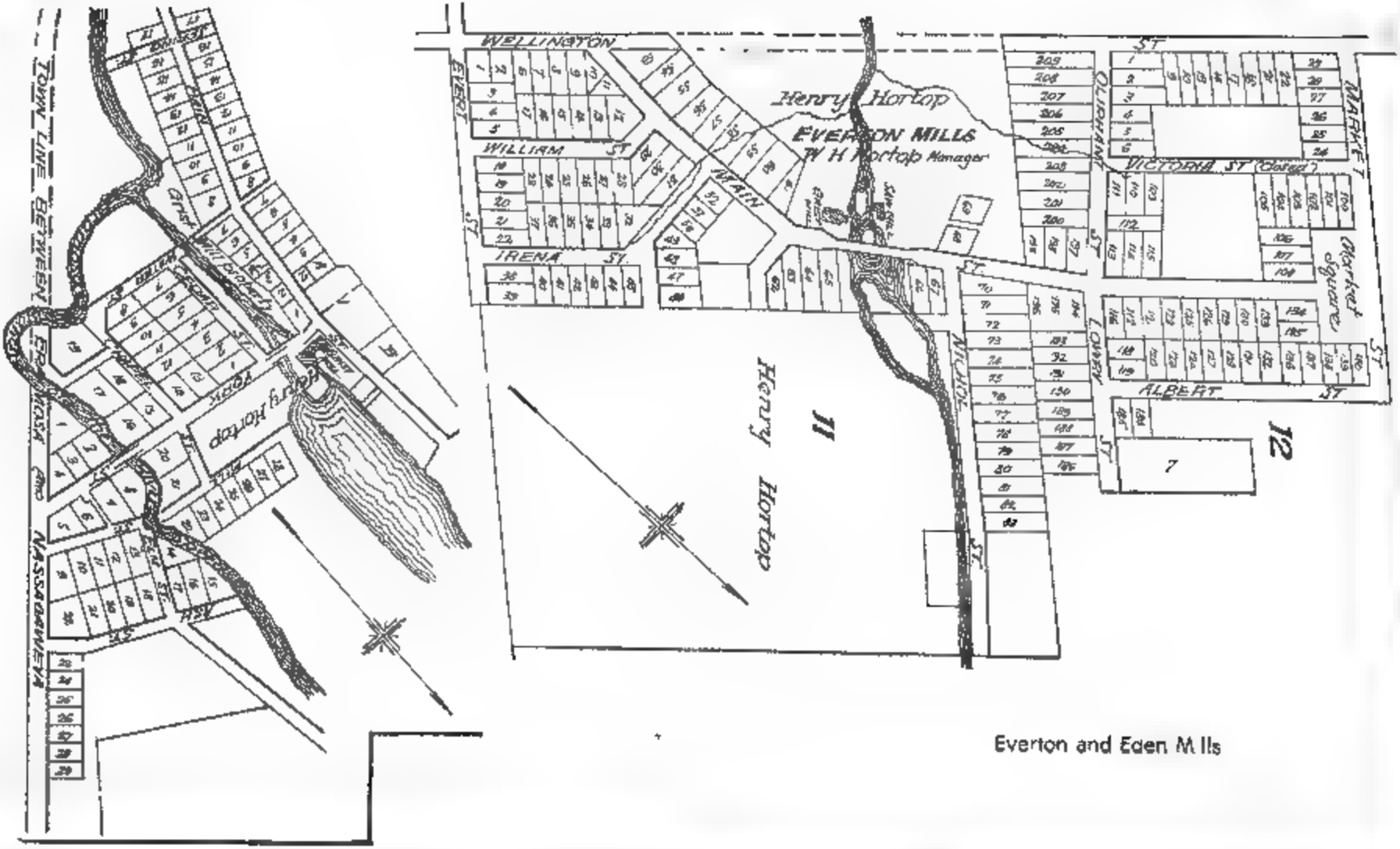
The river tumbling down among the rocks with the flour mill on one side and the saw mill on the other divides Everton into the Northern and Southern towns. The Southern portion which came first into existence is not so extensive as the Northern. The village is divided North and South by the road formerly known as York Road now called Main Street. This street is a detour from the straight right of way on account of the rugged and rocky nature of the road site. The Southern boundary of the village was originally near the top of the hill. In the early days Everton gave promise of becoming a place of importance. Quite a number of shops businesses and industries were opened up. Most of these have now ceased to exist. The first house now occupied by Mr. Hepburn was built by Mr. Plewes of mill fame. He also built the stone cottage in which Mr. John Smallhorn and family lived many years. Mr. William Torrance lived in the brick cottage in which Mr. and Mrs. Walter Couling now live and in partnership with Mr. Robert Copeland carried on a waggon and farm rat business. Mr. Torrance specialized in constructing agriculture implements. His shop stood between the brick cottage in which he lived and the house now occupied by Mrs. Wm. Everts. This house was built by Mr. Kennedy who conducted a store in the front part. He was succeeded by Mr. MacKay who was followed by the Forester Bros. who built the shop on the edge of the rock. This shop was later used as a lodge. Between the lodge and the road a cooper shop was built and on the opposite side of the road the Goukery Bros. successfully carried on a stove factory. Where the old Hembridge house stood across the creek from the store there was located the carpenter shop of Martin James Jestin with his residence above. Mr. Jestin made washing machines in his shop. The house by the side of the road, now occupied by the Misses Reed was run by Mark Sutton as a hotel. On the opposite side of the road there was a shoemaker's shop. Another waggon shop was located in the building that later functioned as the stable of the stone cottage built by Mr. Plewes miller. Rufus Everts original owner of the mill built the house now occupied by Mr. Wm. Hortop. Passing by the flour and grist mill and the saw and shingle mill we discover that about opposite Mr. Ben Simon's house there was a building with a house at each end and a shop between which at one time was run by Mr. Thos. Nicol.

On the site where the Community Hall now stands, Mr. John Webb and later W. J. Stewart had a cooper shop and barrel shed. This shop was occupied later by a shoe maker named Anderson. A potash factory was located on Oliphant Street beyond the old Methodist Church, later Literary Hall and now a blacksmith shop run by Mr. Chas. Fountain. A lime kiln was operated in Col. Head's field just below the house. Mr. Peter Stewart built the present garage and commodious store now occupied by Mr. P. Belisle. The first store there was occupied by Mr. William Hodgkinson, it later passed into the hands of J. J. Tovell, John McKinnon, George A. Marshall and others. Mr. James Mutchel had a tailor shop in the kitchen of the house built by Mr. Dan Abbott, which is now the residence of Mr. Thos. D. McCutcheon. Miss Annie Scott owned a store in the house that later became the manse, now owned by Miss Maggie Sumter, later Miss Scott conducted a store near Mr. Dan Parker's gate. The village smithy of more modern days was owned by Mr. Geo. Robertson. In the house now occupied by Mr. Irwin Hamilton, Miss Wheeler in a private school taught young minds how to cook.

In the early days the Postal Service was very unsatisfactory for a number of years mail was carried on horseback over rough roads once a week. Later mail was delivered twice a week, then thrice, when a conveyance was provided to carry in addition passengers and freight. Soon daily mail service came into vogue. The auto service between Erin and Guelph which calls at Everton is said to be the first introduced into the province. The log house now occupied by Mr. John Simons, trapper and beekeeper, originally stood between Mrs. Robertson's home and the present manse and was originally used as the village Post Office. The religious interests of Everton have not been neglected. In the early days a Presbyterian Church stood in Col. Head's field, not far from Mr. Jestin's house. When the church at Ospringe was built, this church was closed and the furnishings taken to Ospringe, much to the disappointment of Everton members. The first Methodist Church building is now a blacksmith shop operated by Mr. Chas. Fountain. The new church was built in 1900, a change in the affairs of the Methodist Church about 1919 left this fine building vacant. It was later sold and made into a Community Hall. The present building of the Church of Christ was built in 1861. When the country was new and travel difficult, severe, small churches were organized to meet the people's needs. Later these churches decided to unite and form one congregation and build a commodious church building. The present stone structure is the result and has been continuously occupied by the congregation ever since.

In July, 1908, the Everton Women's Institute was organized in the village with the late Mrs. Wm. Tovell as President. They have met continuously each month since organization and the Institute is still in a flourishing condition. They have interested themselves in many good works.

Between Everton and the corner of the Eramosa gravel road, the well balanced and beautifully kept cemetery provides a last resting place for many of the early pioneers of the district. Here rest in peace and quiet, hearts once pregnant with celestial fire" bodies that once housed the genial currents of heroic souls" brains once throbbing with the power




Everton and Eden Mills

of conscious truth, with "Life's work well done, Life's race well run, Peace at last."

Rev. J. P. McLeod, writer of the above story of Everton, became pastor of the Disciple Church there in 1932 and continued for some years after the death of his wife (Myra Prudence Harris) in November 1940, at the age of 57, she was buried in the cemetery that Mr. McLeod had described five years previously. Rev. J. P. McLeod was a well known figure in the community, beloved by many beyond his own congregation. He loved to walk from Everton to Rockwood down one side of the river and return on the other, communing with nature, I think he called it. The sight of his bare head as he cycled along the roads about Everton, Rockwood and Guelph, was familiar to many friends.

The last of the Everts in Eramosa, William, died in February, 1934, aged 76, his widow following in January, 1939 (Rachel Grindell) aged 77. William and his wife derived great pleasure from the beautiful garden in front of their house at the old homestead, Lots 10 and 11. Later he enjoyed retired life in the building that had once been the store of the Foresters, and spent many an hour chatting or playing chequers in the office of Hortop's Mill, with farmers waiting for chop. His farm of 200 acres passed into the hands of this writer and is now owned by the Boy Scouts Association. His residence is now occupied by Harry Hortop, of the third generation to operate the mill. From 1821 to 1939 the name of Everts was associated with Everton, then disappears from the Rolls and Voters' Lists of Eramosa. The original William, grandfather of the aforementioned William, died in 1870, aged 81. He had married Irene, daughter of one of the surveyors of the township. Irene is listed in 1821 as one of the first purchasers of land in the township. William purchased in the following year and the two secured Crown deeds to 1000 or 1200 acres around Everton, according to Registry Office records. In the early days it appears to have been advantageous to be a member of the family of a surveyor, or else be nice to his daughter. The average settler from the old country would not have the useful knowledge of prospective mill sites, etc., that were available. So we find the Everts, after whom Everton was named, controlling 1000 or more acres in one locality. At Rockwood a similar situation existed with the Stranges, records show that the father of Henry Strange, surveyor, owned upwards of 1000 acres around Rockwood and gave the village its early name of Strange's Mills. At Crewson's Corners, too, the surveyor, Samuel Ryckman, owned a large area of land and the first name was Ryckman's Corners.

The Everton district was exceptionally well represented in municipal affairs for over a century. Three former Clerks of the Township are buried in the cemetery there. William Oliphant, after whom was named Oliphant Street, running Southwest between the 1900 Methodist Church and the ruins of the old Post Office, resigned as Clerk and Treasurer in January, 1856, he had held office since Township councils were first organized, 1850. His daughter Sophia married John W. Kilgour in 1870. Annie married Albert Tolton in 1875. He was succeeded by James Mitchell, also buried in Everton Cemetery. Mr. Mitchell had been Councillor for four years

and Reeve in 1855. He had farmed 200 acres, Lot 19, Con. 7, but was a tailor in Everton in later years. We have heard William Torrance tell the story that at seven years of age he was sent to Mr. Mitchell to fit a suit. To the boy's distress, the old gentleman fitted the short pants on backwards and Willie experienced an anxious few moments, not daring to protest until the tailor rectified matters with a "Wee Willie Winkie that we never do." The election of 1865 was the end of municipal affairs for James Mitchell, there were eleven candidates for the five seats. The polling was at Centre Inn, the clerk was in charge and had prepared the poll book with a list of the candidates spread across the top of each page. As a voter entered, the clerk recorded his name and inquired for whom he would vote, then the clerk indicated such votes by a stroke of the pen under the names of the particular candidates. The poll book of January 3rd, 1865 shows five pages satisfactorily completed; the sixth page becomes blurred as 5 minutes to eleven is recorded; a quarter past shows some voters recorded as voting for more than five candidates and blots increase. From half past eleven for a few more entries, the page is a mass of blots and scrawls, and overleaf is a declaration by the clerk that the election had been interrupted, therefore there had been no election.

At a special meeting of the old council on January 6th, it is written, "Gentlemen: From what transpired on the 3rd of this month at the Election for Council, I consider it prudent to tender you my resignation as Clerk of the Municipality. Signed James Mitchell." John A. Davidson was appointed Clerk and a new election was ordered for January 18th and 19th. Fourteen candidates stood for the five seats; the ex-clerk showed that he bore no ill-feeling to the council that had accepted his resignation by nominating all five of them for re-election; the only change in the council was that William Farrish replaced George Nelson. One day in Rockwood Post Office, we accosted Mr. John McNabb, then about 85, as follows: "Mr. McNabb, do you remember the election of 1865? Your father was a candidate." "I had no vote," said Mr. McNabb, "I was only about 17, but I remember the election. The Clerk got drunk and blotted the Poll Book."

Another clerk buried in Everton Cemetery was Hugh Black, who held office from 1883 to 1909. Col. W. M. Head, now Postmaster at Everton, resigned as Clerk about 1915 to proceed with the C.E.F. overseas in World War I. He had succeeded Hugh Black in 1909. In addition to these officials, the Everton or east quarter of the township has provided Reeves or Deputy Reeves as follows: Donald Black, Robert Royce, Dan Talbot, James Black, Chas. McNabb, Arch. McNabb, Wm. A. Dickieson, Sims McLean and D. D. Gray. Councillors from this quarter of the township were: Ed. Alton, Wm. Barber, Baxter Nelson, John R. Harris, Frank Day, Jos. Stovel, Roy I. Leslie, Wm. J. Pinney, Thos. G. Hutchinson, John A. Stewart, John Black, Alex. McQueen, J. S. Loree, James Hartop, Henry Dunbar, Henry Strange, Robt. Talbot and Leonard McDougall. Eramosa has provided the Warden of the County of Wellington for eight years: John Rea, 1876, 1877 and 1878; Col. John Mutrie, 1890 and 1891; Wm. A. Dickieson, 1925; Sims McLean, 1935 and D. D. Gray, 1947. The latter three were all from the Everton quarter of the township and Col. Mutrie later lived for many years in Rockwood which is also situated in the East quarter.

A highlight in the history of Everton Church came in 1943, when the centenary of the Disciples of Christ in Ontario was celebrated there. The authorities selected Everton for the annual June Convention as a fitting tribute to the congregation of pioneers that had been largely instrumental in the establishment of Churches of Christ in Ontario. It was my privilege to attend this gathering as Township Clerk at the request and in the unavoidable absence of the Reeve, Mr. D. D. Gray, to extend welcome and congratulations on behalf of the township, also thanks for the invaluable contribution to municipal affairs made by the Everton community during the 100 years. Eramosa enjoys a record equalled by few local municipalities, of 100 years of the cleanest municipal government; a student of Eramosa history finds it easy to give a large amount of credit for this happy state of affairs to Everton, which has figured so dominantly in municipal government and infused thereinto its high standards of honesty and integrity.

A history of Eramosa should include "OLD EVERTON, and the pioneer movement amongst the Disciples of Christ in Eramosa Township, Upper Canada, from 1830," written in 1941 by Reuben Butchart, in which one finds a story that rings true and in accord with most of the many available records pertaining to the period from 1830 to 1941. OLD EVERTON is colored with a pardonable pride in Disciple standards, not strange or distasteful to this writer, who was raised in the strictest of Particular Baptist circles in England, but which, as Mr. Butchart admits, must ever be accompanied with progress and increasing light in accord with the avowed principles of the founders of the Church of Christ. His stories of James and Hugh Black, written from a church standpoint, are amply confirmed by township records, while those of Beecher Parkhouse and J. P. McLeod conform to the ideas of those of us who knew them well. What could be more typical of Beecher Parkhouse, now Deputy Reeve of Fergus, than Reuben Butchart's account of his resignation as pastor at Everton. While he was pastor there, the Toronto Daily Star, in reporting a speech in Toronto, called him "the fiery orator from Everton." Seldom is such expressive oratory combined with the fearless independent thinking that characterised Beecher Parkhouse, whose son, Stanley, is now an accepted student for the ministry of The United Church of Canada.

The story of Mary Loree, too, is characteristic, for in reply to her questions while we were taking census in 1921, and in admittance that we had married a Methodist organist, though of Baptist origin, and were attending the Methodist Church, Mrs. Loree was quite critical of the whole procedure, remarking, "You know you really belong to us at Everton. This is where you should attend church."

Since writing the above, we have attended the General Council of The United Church at Vancouver. During a report on the chaplaincy service by W/C Rev. R. M. Fraynе, it was pleasant to hear special mention for valuable student chaplain service by Stanley M. Parkhouse, with whom we had dined at Arthur on May 15th, 1945, when he was accepted as a candidate by Guelph Presbytery.

### SCOUTS BUY SITE FOR CAMP PROGRAM

**Waterloo Association Will Use 141 Acres as Woodcraft Training Ground**

Kitchener, Dec. 9, 1943 (Special)—One hundred and forty-one acres of waste land and forest, adjoining the village of Everton, in Eramosa Township, Wellington County, has been purchased as a camp site and woodcraft training ground by the Boy Scouts' Association of North Waterloo district

Purchase of the property out of funds recently contributed by district Scouting supporters was announced here yesterday by F W Snyder, president of the association.

The property, which is approximately 25 miles northeast of Kitchener, was purchased from Frank Day of Rockwood, clerk and treasurer of Eramosa Township.

The new site, according to Mr Snyder, will provide ideal opportunity for pioneering activities, which should feature Boy Scout camps. Throughout its length flows the Eramosa branch of the Speed River, providing several areas suitable for swimming.

Construction of one large building is contemplated at present. This would be in the form of a lodge

# Eden Mills

Eden Mills is a village of 500 acres on the townline of Eramosa and Nassagaweya, which is also the dividing line between the Counties of Wellington and Halton 300 acres of the village are in Eramosa and 200 in Nassagaweya The village existed from the early days but was only erected into a police Village by a bylaw of the Wellington County Council in 1930. Dr. A. E. Byerly, in "THE BEGINNING OF THINGS", has this to say of Eden Mills Eden Mills was founded by the David Kribb's family in 1842, and was first known as Kribb's Mills, also corrupted to Cripp's Mills. Aaron and Daniel Kribbs built a saw mill and a grist mill, which they sold to Adam L. Argo in 1846. In 1850 he sold the mills to Henry Hortop and the rest of his property to James Argo and John A. Davidson For many years Mr. Davidson was the leading public man of the village.

A map of Eramosa published by The Advertiser, Guelph, in 1850, price 2s.6d , speaking of the Grand or Speed River, goes on to say. "On a lower branch of the same stream, are the Eden Mills, owned and occupied by A. L. Argo, Esq , comprising a flour mill and saw mill The same gentleman has also a store contiguous. Lovell's Directory of 1871 says: "Eden Mills A small village on a branch of the River Speed, townships of Eramosa and Nassagaweya, Counties and Wellington and Halton A large trade is carried on in flour and grain Good building stone is available here. Distant from Rockwood, a station on The Grand Trunk Railway, 4 miles. From Guelph, a station of The Grand Trunk, Great Western and Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railways, 7 miles, from Toronto 45 miles; Mail daily, population about 300. Meshack Bardwell, Wm Bouskill, farmer;

John Brown, shoemaker, Richard Burrows, labourer, Malcolm Clark, shoemaker, Chas Cook, Frederick Cook and Othelio Cook, cabinet makers, Andrew Culloden, shoemaker, Wm Cunningham labourer, John A. Davidson, Township Clerk, general agent, farmer John Fisk Michael Fletcher, labourer John Harris, hotelkeeper, Thomas Harris cooper Geo and Moses Harwood labourers Henry Hortop Sr, Henry Jr and James, millers John Houson, blacksmith Anthony Jackson storekeeper and tailor John and Wm Martin farmers Sam Meadows postmaster John Millard labourer Henry and John Moore, labourers Thos. Moylin shoemaker Sam Peach, doctor, Peter Petty, teamster Wm Phin, J P John Ramage, travelling agent, R Richardson blacksmith Wm Ritchie, labourer John Roberts, labourer Andrew Ross, merchant, David Shannon, pumpmaker, H H Swinford, farmer John Yourt, James Whyte, blacksmith Peter Wilson, weaver

Eden Mills received a boost when The Toronto Suburban Electric Railway to Guelph was opened about 1919 there was a station in the village and frequent service East and West This railway was taken over by The Canadian National Railways and ceased operation in the early thirties. A bus line started operations from Guelph to Milton through Eden Mills about 1948 County Road now serves the village and No 7 Highway is about 2 miles away either NE or NW Hortop's Mill was purchased by James Barden and Son and for many years Henry Barden operated a box and crate factory in part of the mill This business and the Grist mill are now carried on by Henry Barden and Son The Postmaster is Norman S. Marshall, son of the veteran municipal official, John Marshall Duncan McDougall developed the beautiful Edgewood Park, now operated as a Summer Camp by the Lutheran Church.

## Crewson's Corners

This hamlet comprises parts of four townships the east corner of Eramosa, south corner of Erin, the north corner of Nassagaweya and the west corner of Esquesing It was first called Ryckman's Corners after Samuel Ryckman, the surveyor who laid out Eramosa and Northern Nassagaweya The Ryckmans also secured title to several hundred acres of land in the vicinity The Crewson family were early settlers and with their many connections soon established the present name Probably the first boost for Crewson's Corners would be due to the fact that the main road from Guelph to Toronto followed the Old York Trail from Guelph through Crewson's Corners and Ballinafad This advantage was partly discounted when the Guelph Road was opened through Campbellville In the 1850's the railway came with a straight line running due west from Acton to Rockwood before turning southwest to Guelph This line just missed the exact corner, less than a quarter of an acre of Nassagaweya remaining north of the railway A pumping station was set up at the creek just west of Crewson's Corners and a wood yard a mile west, but being only 2 or 3 miles from Acton, no station was built at Crewson's Corners.

The original deeds for the railway right-of-way (100 feet) through Eramosa show that several companies were interested in purchasing. It is

difficult to find a reason for this, but it may have been that succeeding companies failed financially or were absorbed by others. Possibly it was a case of "Bigger fleas have little fleas, upon their backs to bite em, and little fleas have smaller fleas so on ad infinitum." If so, the old railroad still runs true to form a big overgrown hundred year old baby not yet quite able to take care of itself. In 1907 the hamlet had a post office, store, blacksmith shop and a church. Efforts were made to get a school, but none of the four townships involved were willing to weaken a corner section by the creation of a union section. Eight of the houses were in Erin Township with the post office and store, two houses, the church and the blacksmith shop were in Eramosa, three houses were in Esquesing and one in Nassagaweya. Now there is an up-to-date service station in Nassagaweya and five more houses in Eramosa. A big lift for Crewsons Corners was the building of No. 7 Highway alongside the railway from Acton in the early 1920's, lessening the distance by road to Acton to two miles. Daily rural mail superseded the tri-weekly service to Crewsons Corners and Knatchbull Post Offices about 1915. The church was built by a branch of the Methodists in 1860 or thereabouts, it was first called Bethesda and attached to the Rockwood circuit. After the Methodist Union of 1875 it was named Crewsons Corners Church. It was abandoned by the Methodists in 1919 but was used for several years afterwards by local residents through the kindness of the late Chas. W. Lambert. It was purchased from the C. W. Lambert estate by H. R. Wansbrough and used by The Salvation Army and other evangelical bodies for some years before being sold to an Acton fraternal society as a club room. The late Dr. T. Albert Moore, first secretary and later Moderator of The United Church, preached his first sermon there, and at some periods the church was attached to the Acton circuit. We well remember a Sunday early in 1916, when fearful of criticism for disturbing the horses, we agreed with James Moore, now of Acton, that each of us would take our families to church in a Ford car for the first time. We agreed to leave the cars well away from the church and not to crank them until the horse-drawn vehicles had disappeared. Mine was a 1912 model with brass fixtures and oil lamps.

Ministers that we can remember were: Revs. W. H. Garnham Lounds, D. H. Taylor, W. H. Douglas, Thos. R. Clark, Geo. Smitherman, W. E. S. James.

## The Blue Goose

It is recorded that Samuel Soper of the Township of Grantham in the County of Lincoln, Yeoman, purchased the west ½ of Lot 3, Concession 7, Township of Eramosa, from David Ferrier of the Township of Nelson, County of Halton, District of Gore, on April 28th, 1837, for Seventy-five Pounds. Samuel Soper was later known as Dr. Soper, the inventor and proprietor of "Soper's Salve". In 1909 Dr. Soper's son Joseph, was farming Lot 3, Concession 6, the 200 acres just across the road from the old homestead. Joseph had three boys and a girl at home, one of these boys, Dewey, later became a Dominion figure through his exploration of the Arctic and his wild life research. "The Blue Goose" by J. Dewey Soper, published by the Dominion government in 1930, at 50 cents, tells of Mr. Soper's discovery of the breeding ground of the blue goose at Bowman Bay, Baffin

Island From 1923 to 1929, Dewey Soper from S. S. No. 8, Eramosa searched for the secret that had baffled experts on natural history for a long time—the breed ng ground of the blue goose. On June 26th, 1929, he discovered the first nest and eggs of this species known to man Ha had travelled 30300 m les in six years to find the breeding ground of the blue goose, previously known only in its w nter home on the sea coast of Lou siana The discovery was flashed around the world as a major advance in natural research "The Explorations of J Dewey Soper n Southern Baffin Land" also publ shed by the Dom nion Government in 1930, gives further thrilling stories of the adventures of this Eramosa explorer Mr. Soper is now a Dominion Wild L fe Officer in Edmonton, Alta

## Eramosa Mutual Fire Insurance Company

This is a local company, organized in 1860, governed by six directors, two of whom are elected at the annual meet ng in each year for a term of three years. Most of the directors serve for the better part of a lifetime and the company has been exceptionally fortunate in securing first-class citizens, men of integr ty and sound commonsense, as directors The company must operate under the regulations of The Ontario Insurance Act, and wh le its roots were grounded in the mutually co-operative ideas of the pioneers, it has adopted up-to-date methods as the times demanded If has always enjoyed the deserved confidence of policy holders in and near Eramosa Its l.qu d assets have never been large, but premium notes from policyholders provide ample reserves in case of emergency Throughout its 90 years of operat on it has never had reason to call on its reserve of premium notes Its present officials are President - John H Fox, B.A., well known da ry breeder and formerly auditor for the township, Vice-President—Ex Warden Sims McLean, Directors Ex-Councillor John Hindley, Ex-Reeve Jos. R Rutherford Ex-Reeve John Grieve and A H McPhedran. The able Secretary Treasurer is K M Forsyth, a hero of thrilling air force experiences in the far East in World War II The year 1953 found A. H. McPhedran as president, and brought the resignation of John Grieve as director and the election of Gordon F Swanston.

## Rockwood and Oustic Telephone Co.

This company was formed in 1906 and provided service for the district between Rockwood and Oustic, covering a large part of the township but not quite reaching to the town lines in any direction The spark plug in the organization was Wm G Edwards, now of Rockwood, affectionately known to many of his friends as Senator Edwards, who is now the only surv v ng charter director The company hitched to the Bel system at Rockwood for exchange and long distance service For 44 years service was maintained, possib y at rates that were too low In 1950, the directors adv sed the subscribers that the system had fallen into disrepair, funds were not available for replacements and the company intended to fold up. Several meet ngs were held, the system was purchased by outside agents and service was continued.

## Transportation

The Grand Trunk Railway coming from Toronto to Guelph in 1855 with a station at Rockwood was the first great advance in transportation for the Eramosa settlers particularly those in the southern half of the township. In the early part of this century as many as six cars of livestock could be seen loading at Rockwood in one day. Some years previous there were seven passenger trains each way stopping at Rockwood. Even as late as 1928 five trains brought many to Rockwood daily except Sunday. In 1950, two eastbound passenger trains and one westbound are listed as regular stops with one or two others as flagstops only. 3 freight trains bring mail. A car load of cattle would now be a novel sight at the loading pens. The establishment of a railway station at Fergus in 1870 brought added convenience to the northwestern residents of Eramosa and the C.P.R. coming in 1880 with a station at Ariss was an added blessing for the North corner.

The Toronto Suburban Electric Railway came to Eden Mills about 1918 on its way to Guelph. Their right of way just touched Eramosa cutting off about 9-10 of an acre from the south corner. There was a two hour passenger service each way from Toronto to Guelph for some years but the Canadian National took it over and it was abandoned about 1930. Traces of the roadbed can be seen but title to the lands has been returned to the farm owners concerned. The gasoline era brought No. 7 Highway to Rockwood about 1927 and the outright Eramosa gravel road crossing the township at Lot 13 became No. 24 Highway about 1940. The second and fifth lines of Eramosa became County roads along with the seventh sideroad across the township and the road from Rockwood East to Erin Township. With four roads across the township and two straight wise assumed by other authorities the local council was able to concentrate on the reduced remaining mileage the rest being excellent township roads in all directions. The passenger service formerly carried by the railways is now handled by the Grey Coach Lines Toronto to Guelph with approximately a two hour service at Rockwood. The Royal City Coach Line operates a bus once daily each way along No. 24 Highway Guelph to Erin and there is a daily bus service through Eden Mills Guelph to Milton. A fleet of trucks carries most of the freight formerly handled by rail. The pioneer in trucking cattle to Toronto was the late Jack Ostrander who lost his life through an unfortunate accident at the stock yards. Among others prominent in this business were James McGregor James W. Oakes Geo. Storey Cecil Leslie Geo. Wingate Edgar Johnston and Gordon Gray. Old time cattle buyers who stumped the township for rail loading included Colin McMillan and Bill Alexander of Rockwood Alex Scott of Brampton Alex White Dep Barber and Art Barber of Guelph Joseph Holmes Frank Holmes and Geo. Patterson of Acton and Art Watson Archie Gillies and Donald Campbell of Arkell and Moffat.

## Shiloh

One writer says that the first settler at Shiloh was Isaac Williams who settled on Lot 29 Con. 5 the beautiful home sold in 1950 by Mr. Leonard A. Leslie. There was a James Leslie married Lydia Williams in 1828, a daughter of Benjamin Williams. Benjamin had built the first saw mill, grist

and carding mill in Esquesing, and probably gave his name to the hamlet of Glen Williams. James Leslie was a sympathiser with Mackenzie in 1837. He and Lydia Leslie had a son, John, grandfather of Leonard, who has just left Shiloh, grandfather of Cecil, farmer of Shiloh, and grandfather of Roy I. Leslie, former Deputy Reeve of Eramosa. James Leslie, the elder, has many descendents in Eramosa, Erin and Esquesing; the family is connected by marriage with almost all of the older families, such as the Johnstons, Nellis, Gray, Swackhamer, Foote, Awrey, Williamson, Pearen, Aitken, Allan and many others throughout the three townships. Shiloh may have been first settled by a Williams, a relative of the Leslies, but as far as emergence from bush country to its present prosperous stage is concerned, the Leslie name would appear to be predominent. John Leslie, his sons and grandsons, were closely identified with church, school and community life at Shiloh, Mimosa, Bethel and Stone Church. Other Leslies prominent in church life were Joel at Churchill Congregational, Joel Jr. and George at Siloam Methodist, Henry at Eden Mills, and Robert, the present S.S. Supt. at Rockwood.

The first school at Shiloh was burned and replaced with a log building with a cottage roof; the present stone school was built in 1872. Mr. Williams gets credit for the first saw mill there before he moved away to London to become wealthy from the business of dispensing medicine. The mill was in turn owned by Messrs. Leslie, Huxtable and Lynett before being burned. James Mitchell opened the first store, selling later to Mr. McCarthy. Shiloh had a Post Office; the Post Office Guide still lists it on the "Nixie List" with Speedside & Oustic, as being served from Rockwood. In 1950, the two Leslie farms, two other houses and the school remain of the hamlet of Shiloh.

## SHILOH — A HISTORICAL SKETCH

### Melvin Grant Writes Story of Rise and Fall of Village

(The Fergus News-Record, Thursday, April 16, 1953)

The history of the hamlet of Shiloh must begin with the old log schoolhouse which stood a few yards north-west of the present stone building. This log school was standing until about 1902, when it was dismantled and cut up for fire-wood. The new school was built in 1872, and in a few years it was filled to capacity. By 1880 there were as many as ninety pupils attending and one of the older scholars was given the task of looking after some of the junior classes. Now, in 1953, attendance has dwindled almost to the vanishing point.

About the year 1865, or thereabouts (for it must be understood that exact dates are out of the question now) a millwright, James Huxtable, saw the possibility of obtaining power from the Speed river, near the school, for a sawmill. Aided by his friend and fellow miller, John Birge, of Birge's Mill, he dammed up the river, installed a turbine water-wheel and erected a sawmill. This provided employment for a few workmen and it was then that the hamlet really came into existence, for several houses were built on the north-east side of the road, between the school and the mill. I don't think the place had a name until a post-office was opened several years later.

Huxtable's sawmill was exceedingly busy for a few years, for houses and farms were being built in increasing numbers, replacing the original log cabins and stables. Then a tragic accident befell Mr. Huxtable, for he had a leg taken off by the saw. He sold his mill to a young man, Nicholas Lynett by name. Lynett dismantled the sawmill and installed a grist mill in its place. The same water-wheel furnished power for the huge circular stones which ground the grain. The sawmill was moved downstream not far from the present cement bridge. Mr. Lynett operated the sawmill by steam power in its new location. He sold the saw mill about 1898 and continued the grist mill business.

In the earlier pioneer days the people of this section of Eramosa obtained their mail from Oustic. A man named Ned Mooney brought mail from Fergus to Speedside, Oustic and Mimosa twice a week. Eventually

Eventually a change was made, for a post office was opened in Mr. Lynett's house. This was given the name "Shiloh" on the suggestion of John Leslie, who had a large farm on the sixth line, now owned by Neil Van Vleit. John Leslie was a devout Methodist, who had been instrumental in founding Bethel church on the corner of the Hindley farm, and he thought "Shiloh" was both beautiful and appropriate. Mail was now brought from Guelph to Shiloh, via Speedside and Oustic. Later a post office was opened at Barrie Hill and it was served by the same carrier.

About 1880, a co-operative movement was started among the farmers of Ontario. This organization was named the "Patrons of Industry". Local groups of farmers banded together, built warehouses and purchased groceries and other necessities in wholesale lots. Shiloh had its "Grange", as these local groups were called. A store house was built on the south-east side of the road. This building was later turned into a dwelling house, and is now occupied by Mrs. Peters.

The school teacher of that day, Jas. Grant, operated the "Grange" and weighed out sugar, oatmeal and other sundries to the local farmers. Of course, this was done in the evenings and on Saturdays. Shiloh Grange had its own charter and a great seal which is still in the possession of Melvin Grant. On this seal it states that Shiloh Grange was organized in March, 1881.

The Patrons of Industry "petered out" in a few years and the Shiloh Grange became just a memory. Shiloh School was greatly overcrowded until a new school section was formed and a new school built on the fourth line, S.S. No. 4½. Pupils in the Oustic neighbourhood, who had belonged to S.S. No. 5, were now transferred to 4½ and Shiloh was much less crowded thereafter.

In 1898, a young married teacher got $200 per annum in Shiloh.

Lynett's sawmill ceased operations about 1898, but the grist mill continued to about 1907. Lack of water in the summer, and ill health combined to force Mr. Lynett to close the mill. George Atkinson operated a more modern steel grinder, powered by a steam engine for one or two

winters, but the dam which had provided a swimming place for the youth of the district for so many years was gone forever.

In 1901, there were five houses in Shiloh. Starting at the south-east end, these were owned by J. Beechinor, N. Lynett, Lizzie Sanderson (who reached the age of 103 years), Roderick Mellon and across the road, Mrs. Priscilla Talbot (in the old Grange Building).

About 1912, James McCann, who lived in the former Rodie Mellon house, opened a small grocery store, which was continued for two or three years.

In 1913 a rural route from Rockwood served the fifth and sixth lines of Eramosa and Shiloh post office was closed.

Of the cluster of houses which formed the hamlet of Shiloh, only two remain and it has become one of the many "ghost villages" of rural Ontario. In January of 1927, the writer, with his father, the late James Grant, had been spending the afternoon in Fergus. On our way home we met Roy Free, with his big steam tractor, hauling one of Shiloh's houses. This house was the one in which James Grant had lived while teaching in Shiloh school so many years before. The building had been jacked up, placed on skids, and was being towed bodily along the snowy road to its new destination in Fergus, where it stands today. Of course, it has been brick veneered and otherwise remodelled. The old teacher, who had only a few more months to live, bade a sad farewell to the old house, in which he and his bride had started housekeeping over 47 years previously.

With this episode I shall conclude my history of Shiloh.

Melvin Grant

## Bethel, Little Brown Church

One branch of the Methodists had a little church and cemetery on the East half of Lot 21, Con. 6, known as "Cope and's". A member of the Copeland family gave the land about 1861. Mrs. Lydia Petty, now over 80 and living in Rockwood, was a Copeland by birth and remembers playing in the ruins of this church as a little girl. In 1871 the Wesleyans built Bethel, the Brown Church on the South corner of Lot 26, Con. 6. This church operated until church union in 1925, when the congregation united with Mimosa Presbyterian and the Brown Church was sold to the United Church congregation and removed to Hillsburgh. It now has a good basement and is quite an asset to worshipping villagers.

The Copeland Church, with another at Lot 13, Townline and Dolmages at Lot 5, Con. 6, all appear to have closed in the decade from 1860 to 1870 along with Eramosa East and Eramosa Centre, (Disciples). The reason apparently being the phenomenal growth and popularity of Everton Disciples Church, erected in 1861 and opened in 1862. For many years from 1862, Everton was probably the most popular church in the township excepting possibly Barrie Hill Presbyterian. From records available for those years, it is readily seen that no other congregation in the township approached either Barrie Hill or Everton in numbers or in quality of their church building. Both congregations were exceptionally fortunate in hav-

ing outstanding leaders for long continuous terms Dr Wm. Barrie, Presbyterian, and Elder James Black, Disciple.

## Oustic

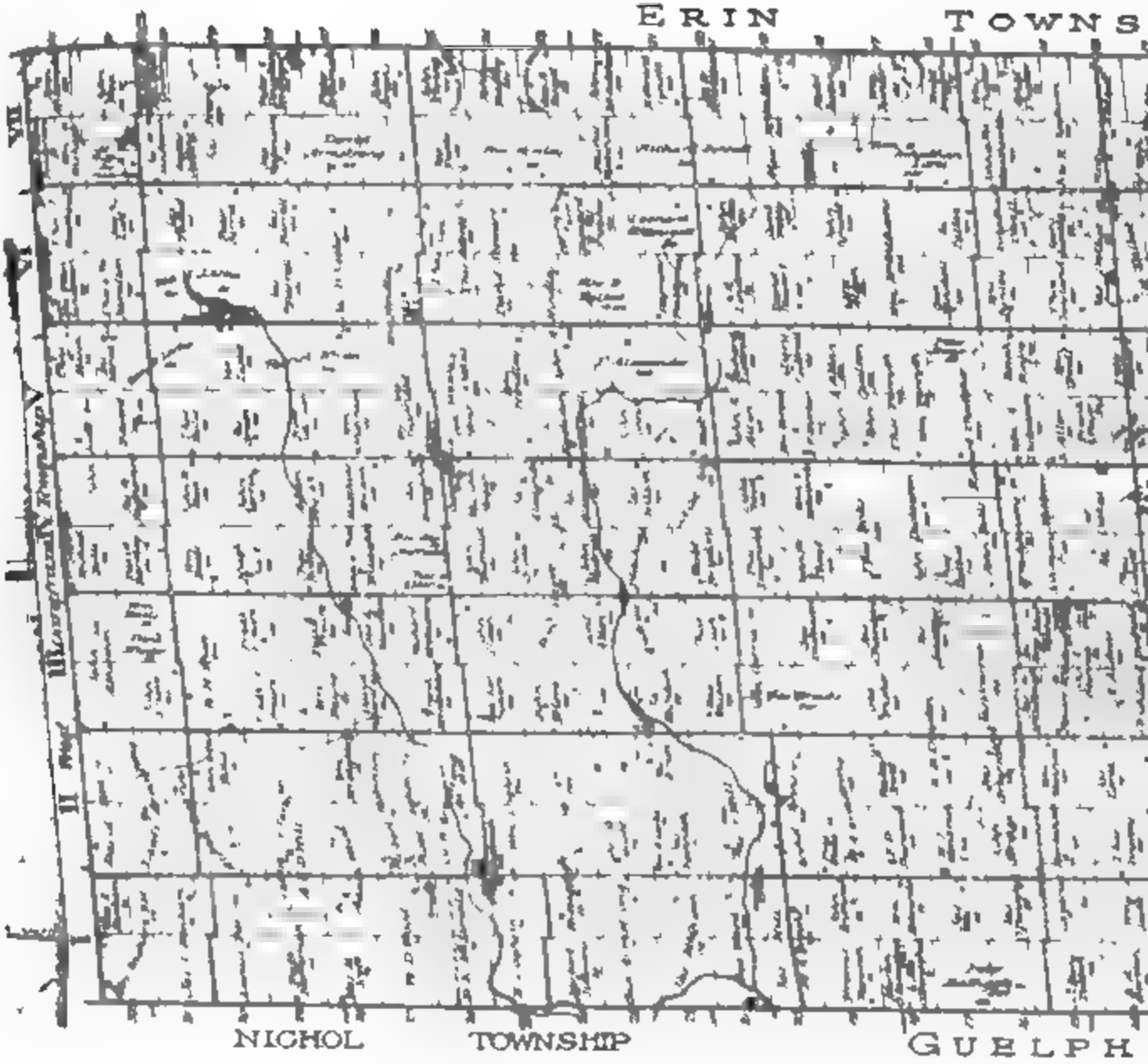
Oustic is situated on the County Road between the 4th and 5th Concessions where it intersects the County Road between Lots 25 and 26. The main object s St Peters R C Church, standing on the hill and visible for miles in each direction The 1871 directory describes Oustic as a small place in the Township of Eramosa County of Wellington Distant from Fergus, a station of the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway, 8 miles Mail triweekly Population about 25 William Allan, blacksmith Joseph Lynas, weaver, James McKelvie, boot and shoemaker James Oakes, hotel keeper, Robert Scott, Postmaster, merchant, George Williams, pumpmaker

## Drumhill

Only one house remains of this hamlet, that of Mr Thos Cutting, a veteran of World War I Appearances indicate that there may have been a few houses and possibly a hotel in the early days, but little can be found of its history There is a brief reference in the Anglican Church history by Rev C H Drinkwater to "the Orangemen from Drumhill" Drumhill is now on a County Road, where the Speedside-Oustic County Road intersects the Erin-Eramosa Townline at Lots 25 and 26 Wellington County Atlas shows the hundred acres at the south corner as "Drumhill Farm" owned by John Thring.

## Aaron and Martha Abbott

Very early settlers were Aaron and Martha Abbott, they settled on Lot 17, Concession 6. For many years previous to 1942 a twin monument to their memory stood in the south corner of this lot at a point approximately ten rods due north from the south corner of the lot One half of the twin tombstone was inscribed "Martha Abbott, died December 26th 1852, aged 72 years" The name of Aaron Abbott had apparently never been inscribed on the remaining half of the stone The monument was surrounded by a stone fence about four feet high and enclosing a small plot approximately six by eight feet the fence was visible from the sixth line About 1942 the fence had become tumble-down and dilapidated, groundhogs had invaded the plot and the farm for many years had been in hands other than those of the Abbott family The Eramosa Board of Health, at that time responsible for the inspection of cemeteries, made inquiry regarding the wishes of the Abbott family in the matter As a result, Mr John A Stewart, whose wife was Nettie Abbott, consulted with Dr James Abbott of Erin and other members of the family, and the tombstone was removed to the Abbott plot in Everton Cemetery It will be noted that Martha Abbott was born in 1780 and assuming Aaron Abbott was of similar age, the couple were above the average age of settlers coming to Eramosa in its early days Dr A E Byerly records them as early settlers after 1823 and the story is told locally that the couple reached Lot seventeen about dusk. Tired with their travel, it is said that they spent their




TOWNSHIP OF

# ERAMOSA

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first night on the new farm sleeping on the ground beside a fallen maple tree. Later, they decided to be buried on the spot where they had slept that first night. In 1942 the plot was out in an open field. It is quite possible that when Martha Abbott was buried in 1852, the bush may have been still standing on the site.

The Abbott family was influential and widely known in Eramosa as shown by municipal and other records; they were particularly noted for vocal and instrumental musical ability, which was applied generously for the welfare of local churches and organizations. They were connected with most of the older families of the township by descent or marriage. The name Abbott has disappeared from Voters' Lists of the Township of Eramosa but many descendents are still resident there.

## The Benhams of Eramosa

The passing of Charles Benham on March 31st, 1947, in his 78th year, brings to mind the record of a family of the Township of Eramosa that has played a major part in the history of the Township. Charlie was a Councillor and Road Superintendent for the Township and a Director of The Eramosa Mutual Fire Insurance Co. for many years. To use the words of the late Art. Laing, a prominent Rockwood merchant for a generation: "Charlie could have had any position in municipal politics, for almost everyone liked him. He was one of the few individuals that I have heard to say he had never spoken crossly to his wife."

The founder of the family in Canada was James Benham, born in London, England, in 1794, when part of London was in the County of Surrey, before the present County of London was formed. He fought in Europe against Napoleon. With his wife, Lucy Walton, he came to Guelph in 1827 and helped to clear the stumps from Wyndham Street.

He settled on the homestead, Lot 10, Concession 3, Township of Eramosa, in 1832, and 115 years later this lot is owned and farmed by his grandson, Henry Benham.

James Benham was a Tory but had opinions of his own, he was prominent in municipal affairs, holding important positions before the formation of Township Councils in 1850. His activity in municipal affairs led to his arrest as a rebel in 1837, with six other citizens of the township, he was hauled by sleigh to Hamilton and barely escaped death by fire, explosion and hanging. James was 43, the other six men were much younger, on this account the government of the day considered him a ringleader, although James Peters, the Township Clerk, was nominally at the head of the supposed rebellion in the Township.

The affair started locally with a misunderstanding; although the men were in sympathy with Mackenzie and held a meeting, they were loyal to the Crown. Dr. Hugh Templin, of Fergus, some of whose ancestors were on the side of the government, is inclined to blame the government for the whole affair. James Benham became the hero of the incident, getting credit for saving the lives of his fellow prisoners by warning all of a fire that was creeping near a powder magazine in the gaol.

No other man has so many descendents in Eramosa, his six daughters married Thos Hughes, Emmanuel Duffield, Henry Sunley, Jonathan Oakes, Joseph Lister and Geo Swanson Other Eramosa families tracing descent from James Benham or connected with his family by marriage as shown by township records are the Hortops, Laights Armstrongs, Parkinsons, Hamiltons Hodgkinsons Dickesons Nelsons Days Scarrows Ostranders and many others Thomas Armstrong who married Charlotte Benham, was one of the founders of Speedside Church where Sir Lyman Duff late Chief Justice of Canada, worshipped while his father was minister there

In 1850 the Armstrongs owned 1200 acres of Eramosa at present the Oakes family own approximately 1000 acres with the Swanstons and Benhams owning and farming some 600 to 800 acres each It is readily seen that the Benham family has predominated in the development of the township and it is not surprising to find that from 50% to 75% of the 2400 residents of the township are connected with the family of James Benham by descent or marriage

In proportion to their share in settling the township the Benhams have kept pace in municipal government James lived to the age of 85 and handed on his penchant for municipal affairs to his son, James W Benham, J P , who was Councillor and Deputy Reeve of Eramosa and active in The Eramosa Mutual Fire Insurance Co James W Benham had three sons Henry, on the old homestead Charles whose death we mourn in 1947, and Joseph, who settled on the Erin side of the townline and served with the Erin Council as Councillor Deputy Reeve and Road Superintendent A son of Joseph, James W Benham is now Principal of Victory School, Guelph, and prominent in church and other activites in the city

A son of Charles, Ernest H Benham is now Deputy Reeve of the Township of Eramosa after serving several years as Councillor, another son, James Walton, was Road Supt for some time This is the only instance where four generations in direct descent have served as members of the governing body in municipal affairs in Eramosa

I have previously mentioned that the pioneer James Benham was a Tory, so were most of his companions in the rebel arrests in 1837 Since 1840 the Township of Eramosa has consistently voted Liberal, the so-called rebels were so disgusted with the actions of the government of the day and with the persecution immediately following the suppression of the McKenzie rebellion that one of their spokesmen declared that if any descendent of the seven arrested men ever voted Tory again, he deserved to be tarred and feathered and run out of the township It does not seem possible that the immigrant ex-soldier James Benham coming to Canada aged 33, could foresee the mighty part he and his descendents were to play in the building of the prosperous township as we know it to-day

Only an exceptional man could exert such an influence seldom can one family make such an imprint on a community, combining successful business operations with sturdry independence and retaining the goodwill of their fellow citizens. For 115 years the name of Benham on a ballot in Eramosa has stood for reliability and usually for election, the family

has given leadership and service for which any township might be grateful. Charles Benham was a Christian gentleman, a sincere friend and worthy scion of the Benhams of Eramosa

## The Blacks of Eramosa

The sudden passing of George Genson Black in his 33rd year, a native of School Section No 8 Eramosa, and the manager of a drug store in Montreal, will bring to the minds of many of the older residents of the township, the wonderful record of service of the Black family for over 100 years No less than seven members of the family have been members or officials of council while church and school records in the Eastern section of the township teem with the name of Black from 1826 to 1936

James Black familiarly known as Elder James Black, was born at Lochgilphead, Argyleshire, Scotland, in 1798, he and his brothers, Donald and Hugh, came to Talbot Street, but desiring more liberty than was allowed by Colonel Talbot James settled on Lot 7, Concession 7, Eramosa, and Donald on Lot 8 alongside Hugh settled in later life in what is now the County of Halton

Elder Black was the first Disciple minister in the district, one of the first in Canada In 1826 he was asked to preach in the Barrie Hill district, where quite a few settlers of Presbyterian persuasion had gathered for worship in the house of Mr McCormick It is probable that the original No 2 School was used for worship situated on the site of the recently improved McCormick's Cemetery These services were after a time discontinued because while entertaining the greatest respect for Mr Black personally, and highly appreciating his piety and labors, the great majority of the settlers were not in accord with his views on the ordinance of baptism. The first building erected for a place of worship in Eramosa was built on Mr Black's farm in 1832, it seems to have been used by the settlers regardless of denomination until the Methodist Church was built at Dolmages, and the Disciple Church at Everton Elder Black officiated at most of the marriage ceremonies for the early settlers, the last township record of a ceremony performed by him being that of his granddaughter, Mary Elizabeth Black, and Christopher Columbus Pomeroy in June, 1875. In the earliest township registrations his denomination is given as Disciple, later as Disciple of Christ, the name at present in use for the denomination is Church of Christ

The township was fortunate in securing James Black as a settler His activities in religious affairs, and as a Commissioner for the township, in which capacity he would deal with matters now covered by the township council and school trustees, and part of the duties now performed in the police court mark him as a man of extraordinary energy and ability When the operation of a 200 acre farm is taken into consideration, and hewing it from the bush in those days, in addition to his public duties some idea of the vitality and determination of the man may be gained and it is not altogether surprising to find the name of Black written into the history of Eramosa to the extent of any other two families combined

With all his manifold activities James Black remained thorough and conscientious about the only human hand that could rule him was that of his gentle wife he was fond of his pipe an indulgence to which his wife did not seriously object until the boys began to grow up in the home, then one evening as he leisurely filled his pipe his wife also commenced to fill one and despite her husband's protests she shocked his complacency by lighting her pipe and announcing that thereafter they would enjoy their smoke together Elder James Black smoked no more

The story is told that the Elder went down into Nassagaweya to officiate at a wedding and having to walk home it was late when he arrived at his residence on Lot 7 and his wife had retired for the night He went to bed and proceeded to report to his wife all the details of his experiences on the trip and at the wedding Suddenly he declared But I forgot to pronounce them man and wife Hastily donning his minister's clothes he walked again into Nassagaweya in search of the happy couple With no car or train service they could not get far away in that time had they wanted to and in the early hours of the morning Elder James Black awakened them at a farm house and solemnly pronounced them man and wife He was a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Township from 1841 for a number of years and was one of the original Trustees for School Section No 4 when that section comprising the Eastern corner of the township and including Rockwood was formed in 1847 His fellow trustees were John Harris and Alex Burns pioneers who with their descendents have figured largely in the development of the church school and municipal life of the Rockwood district The Elder's brother Donald who settled on Lot 8 now owned by Ex Warden Sims McLean was a member of the first council for the District of Wellington in 1847-8-9 Mr Black represented the Township of Eramosa the District of Wellington covering what is now the Counties of Wellington Waterloo and Grey and part of Dufferin When the Township Councils Act became law in 1850 Donald was a member of the first council for Eramosa He was also a councillor in 1851 1853 and 1858 Reeve in 1854 1857 8 9 60 and 1861 and Assessor from 1863 to 1871

John Black a son of Elder James Black was Assessor from 1872 to 1883 and a councillor in 1887 1888 and 1889 Hugh Black another son of the Elder was Collector from 1864 to 1881 and Clerk from 1883 to 1909 a total of 45 years in the service of the township for 6 years previous to his resignation he was also Treasurer In addition to these offices he was Postmaster at Rockwood Secretary Treasurer of the Eramosa Mutual Fire Insurance Co Secretary-Treasurer of the Rockwood Cheese Factory, Branch Manager of The Bell Telephone Co and during his busy life held a host of other offices of greater or lesser importance besides finding time to act as a conveyancer and to preach an occasional sermon in local pulpits.

I was first introduced to Hugh Black in 1908 by the late Reeve Charles McNabb in the same office and at the same window at which I now pen this tribute to his diligence and efficiency The occasion was the purchase by myself of Mr McNabb's farm and we had called upon Mr Black to draw up the deed both gentlemen teased me good naturedly on the folly of a greenhorn Englishman settling on a farm without a wife, but when I in-

formed them that I ntended in the near future to marry the daughter of their mutual friend Robert H Wansbrough their congratulations were forthcoming and a friendship was estabi shed with the McNabb and Black families that has deepened with the years The records of this township are second to none in the County of Wel ington over 70 years of them printed and bound much of the cred t for th s happy state of affairs s due to the careful and efficient performance of his duties by Hugh Black as Clerk from 1883 to 1909

Norr s Humphrey B ack a son of Hugh was for many years Secretary-Treasurer of School Section No 8 and was an Aud tor for the Township from 1916 to his death at Rockwood n 929 The late George B ack, whose sudden passing in the prime of life a week ago brought gloom over the commun ty was a son of Norr s H Black and the s ncere sympathy of the many friends of the fam ly wi be exten ded to h s sorrowing wife mother and s sters Another son of Hugh Black former C erk and Postmaster, was Herbert J Black fam ar y known to us a l as Herb he too was a Trustee of S S No 8 unt l his sudden pass ng on election day of 1936 James Black a grandson of Elder James B ack and son of John Black previously referred to as Assessor and Cou c lor was also act ve n munic pal and school affa rs James entered the coun l n 1905 he was a master in the art of electioneer ng and de ighted n tel ng a side-spl tt ng story He was coun lior in 1905-6 7 8 9 and Reeve n 1910 and 1911 He was defeated by Charles McNabb n 19 2 n a three-cornered fight w th the late Wil liam Parkinson Char es McNabb died n the Fal of 914 and a battle royal betwee James B ack and John Grieve both Ex-Reeves took place for the Reeve-sh p for the rema n ng two months of the year When the smoke had cleared away the Clerk Col Wm Head declared James Black elected by a major ty of one vote James was re-elected at the new year, but died in February 1915 H s successor Wm Parkinson died in March, so that the townsh p lost three Reeves by death w th n six months

Adam Wood was elected Reeve in Apr l and cont nued until after the war but died wh le aga n hold ng the Reeve-ship in 1932 W liam Black, a son of Reeve James Black resides on Lot 7 Con 7 and John Black, a son of Herbert J resides on Lot 8 Con 6 these are the only adult male members of the fam ly now resident in the township The tota n years of service as Reeve Counc lor Clerk Assessor Collector and Aud tor without counting the 16 years dur ng which Hugh held the off ce of Treasurer, amounts to 1 14 which s probably a record for Ontario

When t s remembered that the office of Reeve or Councillor is only for one year at the pleasure of the electors and the other offices are held only during the pleasure of the Council t w ll be agreed that not only in years have the Blacks excelled n service but also in quality It is g ven to few families to produce such a record and to few townsh ps to be favoured with such service

## John W. Graham, Gentlemen

Another chapter in the history of the Township of Eramosa closed with the funeral of Johnnie Graham on August 1st, 1949 His grandfather, James Graham, came from the North of England in 1842 and landed in

Guelph with 25c in his pocket. Losing his barn and crop by fire in 1873, he settled on Lot 2 Concession 7 Eramosa and from 1873 to 1949 four generations of Grahams set a pattern and wielded an influence in the Rockwood area that earned universal respect.

George Lawrence Graham succeeded his father James on Lot 2 Con 7 and for many years the Graham Shorthorns in the field or the Graham teams on the road called for more than just passing attention. An extra bad storm in winter brought drifted roads but not too deep for the spanking, fleshy team driven by young George of the third generation. George L. Graham was perhaps best known as a Christian gentleman, a kindly neighbour and a friend to all. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church and an insight into his character may be gained by his action on the church union matter in the early twenties. Being of North of England Presbyterian stock and married to Violet Murdoch from just across the Scottish border, George did not favour union. However his son John had married a Methodist and was also a Presbyterian elder and the remainder of the Rockwood session being in favour of union, George withdrew his objections in order to further his ideas of peace and good will. He used to tell the story of the old Quaker who was asked by a newcomer to the community "What kind of neighbours will I find?" The old Quaker in turn, asked a question. "What kind of neighbours did thee leave?" "The very best" replied the newcomer. "Then thee will find the very best here" answered the old Quaker, "for thee makes thy own neighbours."

John W. Graham was an elder in his father's church from 1911 to 1949. His later years were spent in the tender care of his daughters. Lawrence, his only son, gave his life in Europe near the end of the recent war. Misfortune and sickness frequently attended the family; they were burned out in 1872 and 1911. Robert, the youngest son of George L., aged 20, was exercising a horse to exhibit at Rockwood Show when a kick from the horse killed him instantly, leaving only three bruises over the heart from the horseshoe. Years later Marion, the daughter of John W., was accidentally shot and killed at the home. When over 70 John W. had to lay away his life partner, Eliza Nellis, and sadness came again with the news of the death of his only son on the field of battle. The Grahams are scattered now. Two brothers of John W., George and Joseph, have retired near Acton. Another, Rev. Wm. Graham, M.A., B.D., is United Church minister at Powell River, B.C. It was typical of the faith of the family that John W. should die at 74 with the 103rd Psalm on his lips. "Bless the Lord, O my soul." Perhaps Eramosa owes something to the Grahams; perhaps they had something in their religion.

## James Grant, A Biography

James Grant was born in the Parish of Chapel of Garioch, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in the year 1848. His early education was received in the parish school, and although the name of his teacher is unknown, yet he must have had the rare faculty of imparting a thirst for knowledge to his pupils, for James Grant had this thirst as long as he lived. The minister of the Parish, Rev. Mr. Davidson, used to visit the school frequently, as the

custom was, both in the capacity of examiner and as religious instructor. Young Grant was always greatly interested when the minister brought his son, a tall, thoughtful looking lad with him. This boy afterwards became Dr. Randall Davidson, Archbishop of Canterbury.

After he left school, Jimmy, as he was called, worked as a "herd loon", helping farmers with their live stock, driving cattle to market and making himself generally useful. Later he was employed in his grandfather's butcher shop. All this time he was educating himself by every means within reach, reading the best in English literature, studying mathematics, philosophy and other subjects which were to be of great use to him later in life. He attended singing school and became a fair vocalist.

By the time he had reached manhood the lure of Canada, that great new country across the sea, proved irresistible, and young Grant decided to try his luck in Ontario. He purchased a guide-book, and from the meagre information within its covers made up his mind to come to Wellington County. He was fond of telling, in later years, how Guelph was described in the little book. "Guelph, a thriving town situated on the river Speed. Has a fine Court-house and Jail."

Arriving in Rockwood early in 1871, young Grant found employment with various farmers in the district. In the hot days of summer he, along with other labourers, was shovelling gravel in a pit near the Centre Inn, Eramosa, for road-building was in full swing at that period of our country's history. The men had a keg of beer, and assured Grant that he would never stand the heat unless he partook of it freely. Being a teetotaller, he of course declined with thanks, and saw the wisdom of his choice when several of his fellow workers were laid low, not by the heat but by John Barleycorn!

It was while he was plowing for James Loughrin, a successful farmer near Speedside, that Grant decided to change his vocation. He had brought many of his books with him from the Old Land, and had continued his studies unaided by outside help. Having the scholastic qualifications necessary for entering the Normal School, Toronto, and having an ambition to become a school teacher, he entered that institution, and by dint of hard study and diligent work, secured a permanent certificate within six months. His first school was S.S. No. 5, Eramosa, in the hamlet of Shiloh. In the large area comprising the section were Irish Catholics, North of Ireland Orangemen, and a sprinkling of English and Scottish immigrants. The school was overcrowded, with an average attendance of ninety pupils! (14 pupils in 1950.) However, the young teacher managed to handle them all successfully, and many of his pupils became well known professional men. In later years when a certain young priest celebrated his first mass in St. Peter's Church, Oustic, James Grant was in the congregation, proud of his former pupil. During his eleven years at Shiloh, Mr. Grant was a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church at Mimosa, and assisted both choir and Sunday School. In 1881 he married Euphemia Rea, only daughter of James Rea, one of the pioneers of the district. The young couple lived in Shiloh, and in addition to his heavy duties in the school, Grant, with his wife's assistance, kept a little grocery store for the Grange, or

Patrons of Industry an organization somewhat similar to the U F O Although the young teacher received a meagre salary the couple managed to save enough to purchase a farm of ninety two acres on the second line of Erin In 1885 they left Shiloh and moved to this farm where they lived for two years In the summer of 1887 Mr Grant learned that S S No 5, a fine modern school in what was known as Parsley Block Guelph Township was vacant He applied and was successful in securing the position The farm in Erin was leased to a tenant the stock and implements were sold by auction and Mr and Mrs Grant and young son moved to their new home They liked the district immensely Most of the people in Parsley Block, as the name indicated were Scottish Grant was among his own folk, and many lasting friendships were made

With the co-operation of some of the men of the community notably James Manderson he organized a Sunday School in No 5 which flourished until a few years ago Grant was keenly interested in politics and was an enthusiastic Liberal and supporter of Wilfrid Laurier Perhaps that was why he had such congenial company in Parsley Block for these sturdy Scots were nearly all dyed in the wool Grits Bengough the cartoonist was at the school one evening and his clever chalk drawings depicting some of the foibles of these local worthies (including our Dominie") tickled his large audience greatly James Grant took a large part in the various activities of the district during his fourteen years tenure in Parsley Block For several years he was president of the South Wellington Teachers Association and many a young teacher found in him a guide counsellor and friend He was an Elder in Chalmers Church Guelph and seldom missed morning worship there He was instrumental in organizing several literary and debating societies and gained fame as an eloquent and forceful speaker Many a Saturday afternoon he would spend browsing around the book shops in Guelph and we may be sure that no trash found a lodging place upon the shelves of his rapidly growing library At school on Friday afternoons he would tell his pupils stories of Uncle Remus", Aesop's Fables Grimm's fairy tales and other childhood classics always striving to implant in his scholars a love for the best in English literature.

Fourteen happy and fruitful years in this school passed all too quickly Towards the turn of the century he became afflicted with a growing deafness, which made his work as a teacher rather difficult His father-in-law James Rea, passed away in 1901 and this left the old homestead in Eramosa without an occupant James Grant bade a regretful farewell to his beloved pupils and with his wife and three sons moved from Guelph township to the Rea farm in the spring of that year Shortly thereafter he purchased the William Rea homestead of one hundred and fifty acres, which adjoined the James Rea farm and there followed an era of exceedingly busy years which included the building of a fine modern barn in 1910

Our ex teacher still found time to take a large part in church and community life Always a keen student of the Bible, he loved to enter into discussions with the local ministers about theological matters, and he could more than hold his own if a difference of opinion arose, which was rather

frequent! He was keenly interested in Missions, and during the winter of 1910-1911 was commissioned by the Home Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church to take charge of a mission station at Spragge a lumbering centre in Northern Ontario He loved this sort of work, and was often called upon to occupy the pulpits of neighbouring churches, as well as his own when the ministers had to be absent for one reason or another. As he grew older and less able for the more strenuous about of the farm, he devoted his spare time to writing for various periodicals and to reading

Most men of his age would have resigned themselves to a rather humdrum existence His sons were able to take care of the farm work, and he might have settled down to a comfortable and more or less idle old age But fate had perhaps the greatest adventure of his career yet in store for him An old friend who had been in Saskatchewan for some years, was compelled by his wife's ill health to come back to Ontario This man had intended to do homestead duties on a valuable quarter section of 160 acres near Kerrobert Since it was impossible for him to carry out his plans he came to his friend Grant with a generous and startling proposition, "Present yourself at the land office by a certain date he told Mr Grant, "I've six months on the homestead in each of three years, have someone break up (or till) the necessary acreage and the land is yours"

Mr Grant's eldest son was in the West but had charge of a lumbering business which occupied his full time The elder Grant thought, "Here is an opportunity to secure this land and present it to my boy as a free gift" This was in the spring of 1914 when the subject of our sketch was sixty-six years old partially deaf and becoming rheumatic His spirit was still young, however and he decided to accept his friend's offer His teaching experience and his missionary work in New Ontario provided him with capabilities which were to stand him in good stead in his great new adventure He learned from friends near Kerrobert that the school near the homestead was in need of a teacher Some correspondence between him and the Home Mission Board of his church elicited the fact that the Board would be more than glad to have him take charge of mission work in the area round about his temporary home He had to get a recommendation from his old inspector J. J. Craig of Fergus before he could obtain an interim certificate from the Saskatchewan Department of Education Mr Craig said among other things "James Grant is one of the most cultured gentlemen I have ever had the pleasure of meeting

So our hero packed his belongings with a great trunkful of books, and took train for the prairies early in the same year which was to see the beginning of World War I He had returned to Scotland in 1883 for a short visit but twelve years residence in this new land of Canada which was fairly pulsating with progress had given him an enthusiastic love for his adopted land new schools churches farm buildings and dwellings were springing up everywhere Conditions in the Old Land were more stable, and although Grant was glad to revisit the scenes of his boyhood, he certainly never regretted having made his emigration to the Land of the Maple Now, in 1914 he was to have a somewhat similar experience Old Ontario had settled down to a somewhat staid and stable state of affairs,

but the west was growing by leaps and bounds. New towns were springing up like mushrooms; railways were extending their lines; and young men from the East by the thousands were homesteading the broad acres of Saskatchewan.

James Grant was enthralled by his first view of the prairies, so "Boundless and Beautiful". He managed with the help of a friend to erect a nice little shack and stable on the homestead and got a neighbour to do the necessary "breaking" or tillage. His school was Oakwood School, in Mariposa Township, so named by homesick settlers who had come from these places in Ontario. On Sundays his faithful little grey pony, supplied by the Mission Board, took him to his several preaching stations. In spite of his deafness, he managed his school with all of his old time skill, teaching on week-days and preaching on Sundays to fairly large and intensely interested groups of hearers. His services were most informal and it was not unusual for members of his audience to interrupt with questions which he answered fully and freely.

The summer of 1915 brought to the Prairies a tremendous crop of wheat and Mr. Grant's letters to his family in Ontario showed his abounding enthusiasm for his temporary new home. He told of watching the great threshing outfits which turned out a seemingly never-ending flow of golden grain, of the huge elevators which were filled to the bursting point, and of the endless stream of freight cars, which rolled over the prairies, carrying the wheat to the lakehead ports.

During the coldest winter months he closed his school and returned to his home in Ontario. On his final trip to the West, in the summer of 1916, he was accompanied by his wife and youngest son, and they spent a very pleasant time in the small shack. They bade a regretful farewell to the West that Fall, leaving a host of friends, both young and old. The homestead was his to do as he pleased with, and he had managed to save a substantial sum out of his salary as teacher. He gave the homestead to his son as he had planned, and returned to Ontario carrying with him a vastly richer experience than he had ever before known.

His remaining years were far from inactive. After the Great War the Government sponsored a contest which was designed to attract settlers to Canada. A prize of $50.00 was offered for the best written account of a settler's own experience. So James Grant wrote a short sketch of his life history and submitted it to the judges. It won first place, and the sketch was made into pamphlet form and widely distributed over various parts of the Empire. The result was startling. Letters came to Grant from Scotland, England, and even India. One young man's letter appealed to him greatly, so several letters were exchanged, and eventually the young man, a fine-looking English youth, arrived at the Grant farm. Our old teacher was greatly taken with him, and assisted him in finding a congenial position. The young man was amazed to find such hospitality in Canada. Everyone was eager to help him, and he soon made many firm friends. The last we heard of him, he was in the Peace River District, and a fine type of citizen.

As Mr Grant became more infirm, he spent more time among his books He had correspondents in many parts of the world, and was never idle He was interested in gathering local history, and wrote a history of Eramosa township for the Guelph "MERCURY", upon the occasion of the centennial of the city of Guelph which took place in April 1927 During the last few months of his life he was engaged in assisting an Edinburgh publishing concern in compiling a dictionary of Scottish words and phrases His knowledge of the dialects of Scotland, and his ability of translate these, to us, peculiar sayings into everyday English was invaluable and it seems a pity that he was not permitted to finish this task

He died in May, 1927, and his intellect was unclouded until within a few hours of his passing He had fought a good fight he had finished his course Who can doubt that he received the reward which St Paul said was not for him only, but for all them that love His appearing?

Melvin Grant R R No. 5,, Belwood, Ont

## Pioneer Settlement in Ontario Gave Railway Genius to the World

(From The Telegram, Toronto, Feb 18th, 1933, by A E Byerly)

*Boyhood friend of James J Hill tells of Rockwood's Quaker foundation Was Brotherstown Scholars of long ago went on studying although school burned The last survivor of the boys and girls who attended a small private school at Brotherstown and the only playmate of that day of the late James J Hill, celebrated in the railway history of North America Joseph Fletcher of Guelph Ontario looks back over his long and interesting life to tell of days now almost forgotten in the rush of time*

Nestling in one of the beauty spots of Wellington County in the Township of Eramosa on the Toronto and Guelph Highway, is found the village of Rockwood, noted three-quarters of a century ago as the seat of Rockwood Academy an institution of learning which attracted students from all parts of Canada But long before Rockwood grew into being when Eramosa was a forest wilderness the home of the bear and the wolf, there came to its primitive vastness several sturdy men and women, members of a sect called Friends or Quakers In the neighbourhood of the present Rockwood they cut away the timber, cleared their land and in their midst gradually grew the tiny settlement of Brotherstown To most people this hamlet is but a memory now only a story passed on by ancestors long since dead But to Joseph Fletcher Brotherstown is a vivid reality, and its people and the old school house, the village smithy, the tavern and the Quaker meeting house of nearly 90 years ago form a picture he alone can describe Eighty seven years ago he attended the private school taught by one of those Quakers Not one of the scholars of that day save from himself is believed to be living now

Joseph Fletcher was born in England, June 9th, 1840, the son of Samuel and Rebecca Fletcher When he was two years old his parents came to Canada and located about 2 miles from Brotherstown, and he thus grew up and attended school with the sons and daughters of the young pioneers

who had come to Eramosa before his parents arrived. Those children, some older than himself, are now all gone. Alexander S. D. Hall, a brother of the late James J. Hill, died not long since in Fergus and was the last surviving pupil who attended the private school at Brotherstown with Mr. Fletcher. Alone in his room, this old, white-haired man of 93 years, with a memory unimpaired by the passing of nearly a century, relates the story of the early days with accuracy and clearness. He seems to have forgotten nothing, and seldom needs to have his memory jogged. No wonder he possesses such a mind. All his life he has been a great reader and he still keeps up the habit. In his youth he was named Dictionary Fletcher, for at the spelling contests in the district school he was never once spelled down.

Through his eyes, then, must we see Brotherstown, that once little settlement inhabited mainly by Quakers of whom only one family remains to-day of Quaker ancestry. In the year 1821 John Harris and William Smith, both Quakers, located in Eramosa township. About the same time or possibly a little before them John Ramsey came to the same township but he did not belong to their sect. These three men were the first settlers in the neighbourhood of the present village of Rockwood. They were among the first settlers in the County of Wellington. Guelph was not founded until six years after their coming and evidences of civilization in the county consisted of a clearing at the Falls of Elora and on a lot or two in the distant district of Erin. Gone long ago are the settlers of that date and now only their grandchildren and great-grandchildren are left to tell of their ancestors' valor in pioneer days.

In the 40's Brotherstown was mainly inhabited by three families named North. There were three brothers, William the tavern keeper, Peter, the blacksmith, and John a carpenter. They were Quakers. William was married to a sister of John Harris, who had a farm near the settlement. She conducted a private school in a room of their house, and it was to this school that Joseph Fletcher, James J. Hill, Alex Hill and other boys and girls in the neighbourhood received their first schooling. The house also served as a tavern, and North on one occasion came into the schoolroom drinking his glass of grog. It is said that on account of his love for drink that he was excommunicated by the Quakers. Mr. Fletcher can remember the day he stormed into the school room saying he "would show them if he was a Quaker". Mrs. North, a fine woman and a good teacher, had a private school at Elora for a few years after leaving Brotherstown.

On Wednesday morning, Feb. 24th, 1847, the home and school house of Mr. and Mrs. North at Brotherstown was completely destroyed by fire. Mr. Fletcher, then seven years of age, remembers well the burning of the school, and states that all the neighbours cut logs, brought them to the village, and in almost no time had another school and house erected. The only account of this fire, the destruction of the chief seat of learning in Wellington County, is contained in a bound volume of the Guelph Advertiser for the year 1847, now the property of the writer. This interesting article states: "We regret having to state that Brothers Town Seminary, Eramosa, was burned to the ground on Wednesday, February 24th. The night of Tuesday was extremely cold, and about nine o'clock, on going to breakfast, a quantity of cedar was put in the school room stove, which so

heated the pipe as to cause a floor through which it passed to take fire The whole of the family and pupils, numbering from 25 to 30 persons, were preserved unhurt as far as we have been able to learn Mr Heffleman of this town had two sons and a daughter at the school and the latter having been sick for a few days was in bed at the time of the accident occurring and perceiving smoke in her room covered her head with the bedclothes not in the least supposing that the house was on fire In a short time she was inquired for and not appearing Miss McWilliams one of the pupils rushed into the room and carried her down rolled up in the bedclothes All must sympathize with Mr and Mrs North under the circumstances and none more than the parents of their pupils from the kindness and attention which has ever been shown to their little charges Yet such is the method and order which reigns predominant over all their proceedings that when some of the parents arrived on the spot to enquire after the fate of their children the whole were found as attentively studying their lessons in a hired apartment a short distance away from their former residence as though nothing unusual had taken place and already a number of logs were on the ground for another house which it is expected will be ready in about 14 days"

Such is the picture of pioneer days Nothing disturbed the life of the settlers They met hardship with a fortitude hardly to be realized to-day One of the students at that school was later Dr Llewellyn Brock a well known physician of Guelph and it is also said that Mr W R Brock once a noted merchant of Toronto attended this school Peter North the blacksmith died suddenly at Brotherstown about the year 1850 The rest of the North family left the place a few years later and few even remember the name of these pioneers The house built following the fire for the school kept by Mrs North passed into the hands of Robert Pesmore, and became the first store in the settlement It was in this building that James J Hill who was destined to make railroad history and be listed, as he was recently as one of America's 50 immortals went to work as a clerk for a dollar a week Pesmore Hill's first employer came to the place about the end of the 40's and opened the store He died in the village

Adam Cripps also had a blacksmith shop in Brotherstown He had two sons Nathan and Ezra the latter being known as "Professor" on account of his superior learning The founders of the Quaker settlement, John Harris and William Smith were men of ability Harris taught school in his early life and his sisters did also one of whom was Mrs North Mr Harris married Jane Wetherald a sister of William Wetherald the founder of Rockwood Academy Their children were John Richard Thomas, Joseph, Samuel and James He has grandchildren living at Rockwood this being the only Quaker family to remain there throughout its history They have been very prominent in its business life and carried on the woollen business founded by the sons of the grandfather John Harris

William Smith the other pioneer in this Quaker community had one son William and a daughter Sarah The son married Deborah Harris, a sister of John Harris Not long after the burning of the school at Brotherstown, the North family gave up teaching It was then that Robert Pesmore opened his store in their house But Rockwood, or as it was then known, Brothers-

town, was to continue as a seat of learning as about 1850 William Wetherald founded the Academy which became one of the well known institutions of the country. Brotherstown was named Rockwood and the school was ever after known as Rockwood Academy. The fine old building stands on the highway as you enter Rockwood from Toronto but long ago ceased to serve as a school. It was in this school that James J. Hill received his fine education. He was a keen scholar and absorbed all that Mr. Wetherald could teach him. The teacher was a man of ability of Quaker descent and culture. He came with his family to Puslinch township, Wellington County, in the year 1835. At the age of 21 he taught school in Eramosa, and when 24 years old married Jemima Balls. In 1864 he sold the Academy and went to Haverford College near Philadelphia as superintendent, but returned to Canada in 1866. He later became a minister and was pastor of the Congregational Church at St. Catharines. He went to England in 1893 and after a series of addresses there was taken ill and died.

Another well known Principal of the Academy at Rockwood was Donald McCaig who was educated in Toronto and after teaching at Rockwood and other points in Ontario was appointed Public School Inspector for Algoma. Mr. McCaig will be remembered for his contributions to Canadian magazines and as a poet of no little ability. He was a member of the first Canadian Club organized in Guelph in 1888. The last principal of Rockwood Academy was Alexander McMillan who, although a very able teacher found it increasingly difficult to keep a private institution going in competition with the advantages in public schools. So the doors of this famous old building were closed in 1883 and Mr. McMillan moved to Parkdale where he was appointed town clerk.

No name in the history of the Rockwood district is better known than that of James J. Hill who was born near there on September 16th, 1838 and was two years older than his playmate Joseph Fletcher. The father of James J. was James Hill who came to Eramosa in 1829 with his parents. In 1833 he married Anne Dunbar and they moved to 50 acres near Brotherstown. They had 3 children who reached maturity. The eldest Mary Eliza was born on Christmas Day 1835 and died June 25th, 1905. Her husband was John Brooks of Eramosa and they were the parents of 13 children. James J. Hill was born September 16th, 1838 and the youngest, Alexander S. D. Hill was born Sept. 6th 1839. He lived to be over 90 and died at Fergus not long ago. His widow is a charming woman still very active and has her home in Fergus.

The father of James J. Hill died in 1852 and young Hill left school to assist his mother. He worked for a time at Pasmore's store, spent some time in Guelph and set out for the northwest where he was to lay the foundations of a great fortune. By working with his hands and his brain he transformed the transportation system of the Northwest United States and Canada and did much to develop the country. He became the greatest railway builder of any age. Such are the memories of Joseph Fletcher of Guelph. Of his schoolmates of the 40's all are gone that he can recall. A few weeks ago his aged wife passed away and now more lonely will be the long hours of the day. He finds some consolation in his daily papers, the cheery greetings of his friends and the attention given him by his children.

For many years he and his late wife made their home with their daughter, Mrs Thomas Couling and hr husband and now that his wife is gone, he finds their presence an even greater comfort in his declining years.

The Editor, The Fergus News-Record

Your tabulation of figures and articles concerning the recent Provincial vote in North Wellington prompt the following comment:

It is unique that the leaders of the two leading parties should each have strongly defined connections with the County of Wellington The association of Col Drew and his forebears with the city of Guelph is well known, but the connection of Ed Jolliffe with Rockwood has been generally dismissed with the comment that he lived for a time on a farm near Rockwood

Eramosa Township records show that the C C F leader's grandparents, John O Jolliffe son of Richard O and Prudence Jolliffe and Sarah Annie Pasmore daughter of Robert and Sarah Pasmore, were married in Eramosa on March 29th 1871 Robert Pasmore was the first Postmaster in Rockwood, Dr Byerly's history says that he opened a store in the village in the early 50's The Wellington County Atlas states that J J Hill entered Pasmore's store in Rockwood in 1852, when 15 years of age and worked there for 3 years later working one year in Guelph before entering his career as a Railway magnate in U S A

The Christian Guardian of 1856 prints a glowing account of the opening of the new Wesleyan Church in Rockwood on November 8th and the church records name Robert Pasmore as one of the original trustees John O Jolliffe farmed in the village for many years on or near the lot on which the Harris sisters opened the first school in the County of Wellington He retired about the time of the First world war and died in Rockwood a few years ago, highly respected in the village and district as a Christian gentleman, he was a leader in the Methodist Church and an Elder in the United Church from its formation until his death His two sons, Orlando and Charles familiarly known in the district as The Jolliffe Boys, went to China as missionaries under the Methodist Church Dr R O Jolliffe is still there in charge of the Literature department of the United Church Rev Charles Jolliffe served for many years in China where his son the C C F leader was born Latterly Rev Charles has held pastorates at Ernn, Churchill and other points in the Hamilton Conference

While attending Guelph Collegiate and living in Rockwood, E B. Jolliffe was for some time a member of the United Church choir, in his teens he conducted services while the minister was on holiday After winning a public speaking contest and The Carter Scholarship at the Collegiate he went to Toronto and via The Rhodes Scholarship, to Oxford becoming less known to a new generation in this vicinity Fourth and fifth generations of the Jolliffe and Pasmore families now live in or near Rockwood and with the enviable record of the two families it is not surprising that Eramosa should poll the largest C C F vote of any of the 20 municipalities in the riding, even though the candidate, Rev J Sutherland, was little known and lived many miles away Rev John Sutherland's visit to the village had

an unusual episode; some two years ago he was conducting service in the United Church commencing at 11 a m The Presbyterian service, also being conducted by supply, was at 11 30 Early in the service at the United Church, the Presbyterian minister entered by mistake, having stepped off the bus, he hastily donned a ladies choir gown in the Sunday School room and proceeded through the choir to a chair beside Mr Sutherland A few words between Scripture reading and prayer explained the situation and the look on the face of the minister as he retreated through the choir was one to be remembered

There is something refreshing in the way electors will support a man well known, believed to be reliable, and with a creditable family record, no matter what party he represents. Ross McEwing's deservedly overwhelming support from his own locality, John Root's feat in piling up a Conservative lead in the Liberal township of Erin and the Sutherland (Jolliffe) vote in Eramosa show that party ties are held in less esteem than personal preferences Each candidate in N Wellington may well be proud of his home support

When the notoriously Liberal Townships of Erin and Eramosa poll a total of 1159 to 736 against a Liberal government with such a popular candidate as Ross McEwing, there is more than party machinery at work, it appears that Root of Erin and Jolliffe of Eramosa, rather than politics, were responsible, certainly the vote was no indication of the general feeling towards Ross McEwing, who could easily have secured a majority in both townships if he had lived at Everton instead of at Moorefield.

## The Kilgours

James Kilgour with his wife, Ann Morton, their children and two families of Mortons, James' and Robert's, 16 in all, came to Canada from Kirkcaldy, Scotland, in 1845 They took up land on the line running from Rockwood to the Guelph Road. James Kilgour was born in 1812, an accident in his youth while high vaulting, entailed the loss of a leg and this turned him to sedentary pursuits He had a small private school in Kirkcaldy before coming to Canada He knew little of farming and was greatly handicapped by the loss of his leg, but he was very active Besides overseeing the work of the farm, he rode horse-back on preaching missions, all over the countryside when over 70 he travelled as far as Bayeville holding meetings In connection with his evangelistic work he was often called upon to perform marriage ceremonies One record states that when the schools first began to operate in this country there were no inspectors but that Mr Kilgour was appointed local Superintendent of Public Schools in Guelph Township Later he was appointed Inspector for South Wellington, an office which he held for 21 years, at that time Erin as well as Eramosa was a part of South Wellington. Mr Kilgour became well known and very popular with a whole generation of school chuldren He always carried a pocket full of candy and proclaimed a holiday after each inspection. About the year 1870 he left the farm on the Rockwood line and moved to Guelph, living there until his death in 1893

## The Foresters

A family long associated with the cultural development of Eramosa was that of John Forester and his wife Elizabeth Robinson. They came from County Westmoreland, England, in 1857 and located at Everton. Mr. Forester was a Methodist and most devout and ardent in his efforts to build up the spiritual life of the community. Besides farming, he preached three times each Lord's Day, walking 16 miles in all kinds of weather over roads that were everything but easy to travel. It was a labour of love on his part, as he received no salary. When yet a young man of 41, death came and ended a life of great usefulness. His widow, with her six children, bravely carried on, meeting the rigours of pioneer life. She died in 1909, aged 84. For some years, with her daughter Mary, she conducted a store in Everton. Mary had the distinction of being the first woman in this part of Ontario to run a telegraph office. Margaret became the wife of James Black, later Reeve of Eramosa. John became a cheesemaker and owned a factory at Ernestown, Lennox County, and won Gold Medals at the World's Fair. James went to Idaho where he had gold mines; he later retired to Vernon, B.C., where he died at 83. William had a successful decorating business; he moved from Oakville to Vernon, B.C., and lived until he was 82. Henry spent most of his life farming and in the cattle business in Eramosa, retiring to Guelph in 1920. He attained the good old age of 93 and his wife 92. All were gifted with outstanding musical ability and their home was a centre of hospitality. Mrs. Forester was a descendent of the Oglethorpe family of Surrey, England, the same family to which belonged General James Oglethorpe, founder of the State of Georgia.

## The Oliphants

David Oliphant was born in St. Andrews', Scotland, in 1872. He came to this country in 1822 to seek relief from asthma. He brought his eldest son, Alexander, with him and settled in Dundas until the rest of his family joined him, then they moved to Eramosa, taking up Lot 12, Con. 7, the 200 acres between the village of Everton and the Guelph Road. Both the church and the cemetery are on this lot. There were four children, Alexander, Mary, William and David. Alexander died young in 1834. David Sr. died in 1841 and his widow Sophia Watt deeded the property to her children. David, the younger, sold his share and went to Bethany College, Virginia, becoming a preacher, writer and editor. Mary married William Elliott and moved to Dundas and later to Toronto. William remained in Everton, marrying Ann Stewart. William was cut off in 1856 at the age of 42, in the middle of a promising career. As mentioned elsewhere, he had resigned as Township Clerk in January 1856 after holding that office since the inauguration of township councils in 1850. The old Oliphant house, still standing in Everton (1950) must have been built in the 1830's and housed the original David and Sophia Oliphant and their son William and his family. Now the Everton Post Office, occupied by Col. W. M. Head, it is full of historic associations, particularly in connection with the large part the Oliphants played in the formation and furtherance of the Disciples of Christ and in connection with the Mackenzie rebellion. From "Early Life in Upper Canada" by Edwin C. Guillet, we learn that this

is the house where Samuel Lount and Edward Kennedy were given shelter and protection by an Oliphant sympathiser. After William's death, his widow's brother Peter Stewart, came to live with her and some farm trading was done between the Oliphants and the Stewarts so that both farms were operated from the old Oliphant home for some years until the brother and sister moved to Guelph in the 1880's. The Everton farm was then rented and later sold to Adam Weatherston. The Oliphant farm on the next line was inherited after the death of William's widow by her son, David, and was sold by him some years later. The only two surviving members of the family bearing the Oliphant name are Miss Mary Oliphant of Detroit, daughter of David Oliphant preacher and Miss Florence Oliphant of Meeford, granddaughter of William Oliphant.

Col. Head the former township clerk, now Postmaster at Everton, tells me today, (1950) that he is in his 85th year and is living in the historic Oliphant house. In earlier years while he was Captain Head, he was a cattle drover and lived in the red brick house now owned by Mr. Russell Osborne on Lot 7 Concession 1 on the County Road just North of the Railway. In those days before the motor age it was customary for a drover to go to Toronto on the freight train with his carload of cattle the Grand Trunk Railway allowed him return fare on a passenger train at an attractive rate. On one occasion Captain Head had a reduced rate ticket from Toronto to Rockwood on a passenger train. He did not get off at Rockwood and was shortly noticed by the conductor who raised objections to carrying him to Guelph while his ticket read Rockwood. The captain refused to pay the few extra cents and the conductor threatened to put him off the train. The wily captain deliberately antagonised the conductor berating the Grand Trunk Railway Co. and the conductor in no uncertain terms. The argument had continued for two or three miles when the conductor could stand such impertinence no longer he stopped the train and ordered the passenger to get off. The captain obeyed and, pointing to the red brick house, said to the conductor "See yon house?" "Yes," replied the conductor "That is my home", said the captain "And if ever you or the Grand Trunk Railway need a recommendation for courteous service, just call on Captain Head. I have never had rail service so close to home before."

## Professor George A. Peters

The University of Toronto Monthly dated May, 1907, contained the photo and the history of an Eramosa boy, Professor George A. Peters, M.B. (Tor), F.R.C.S. (Eng.) written by Prof. A. B. Macallum. In the "Personal" column of the same issue, another Eramosa boy, Sir Lyman Duff, is mentioned as follows: "Mr. Justice L. P. Duff, B.A., '87 (U), LL.B., who was recently elevated to the Supreme Court of Canada, has removed from Victoria, B.C. to Ottawa."

Prof. Macallum writes of Professor Geo. Peters:

"On March 13th, Dr. George A. Peters, Professor of Surgery and Clinical Surgery in the University of Toronto, after a short life of strenuous endeavour and notable performance as a surgeon and teacher, passed

into the Silent Land. It now remains as a labour of love to put on record an account of what he was and what he achieved.

He was born on July 10th, 1859, in the Township of Eramosa, near the town of Fergus, in the County of Wellington, and his boyhood and early manhood were spent in that neighbourhood. Before he reached the age of fourteen he lost his father and mother, and, as the eldest of four children, he had not only to earn his own living, but also to aid in the support of two half-brothers and a half-sister. This heavy task was performed to the fullest extent, for through his assistance all were given a good High School education, and he and his two brothers ultimately became graduates in Medicine in the University of Toronto. What this meant to him may be gathered from the fact that he, a boy of fourteen to eighteen, did a labour-hardened man's work in the farm field, from morning to night, through the greater part of each year, while at the same time he snatched from what should have been hours of rest after toil, the time to acquire an elementary school training. In speaking of this period some ten years ago to the writer, he lamented the fact that the years which should have been given over to the normal physical development of adolescence were spent in utterly exhausting physical work, and he believed it was done at a sacrifice which would ultimately tell in later years. Now, wise after the event, we recognise that his prevision was correct.

In 1881-2, for the purpose of preparing himself for matriculation in the University, he attended the Collegiate Institute at St. Catharines, then under the principalship of Dr. John Seath, now Superintendent of Education, and so strenuously did he work as a student that he achieved in one year what the fairly clever student takes three years to do. He entered the Toronto School of Medicine in 1882, and after four years of a brilliant undergraduate course in the University of Toronto, he obtained the degree of M.B., and a Starr gold medal, in the year 1886. After serving for one year as house surgeon in the Toronto General Hospital, and for some months later as acting Medical Superintendent of the same institution, he was appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy at the then recently organized Faculty of Medicine of the University of Toronto, and at the same time he began his professional career. In 1889-90 he spent some eight months in England, and in that short time passed two examinations for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons. He was for several years the only Canadian who possessed the qualification. In 1890, returning to Canada, he was appointed Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery in the University of Toronto, but he continued to practice medicine as well as surgery, although devoting himself more and more to the latter, until 1900, when he gave his whole energy and attention to the surgical side of his calling. His success in this was certain from the first, for he was a genius as a surgeon. His knowledge of anatomy, which was very accurate, his ability to devise new methods, and his boldness in entering new fields of surgery, contributed in no small degree to that success.

Quite the best appreciation of his abilities in this line is that conveyed in the words of Professor J. H. Cameron, formerly one of his teachers of surgery, and subsequently his colleague as the head of the Surgical De-

partment of the University "His surgical alertness and inventiveness were attested by his various modifications of the usual operations of plastic surgery (in which he excelled) by the coat sleeve amputation of the appendix which he was the first to do by the transplantation of the ureters into the rectum in cases of ectopia vesicae which he made his own, and by the method of proctoplasty and suspension in cases of procidentia recti His mechanical ingenuity was shown by his modification of Aiken's splint for fracture of the upper arm his wrench for club-foot his device for making plaster casts of the living head and neck by a preliminary spray of parraffin and last but not least by his wonderful self-registering target for rifle shooting which it is hoped the profession will use their influence to have very generally adopted as a memorial to the man and a source of revenue to those who were dependent on him"

In 1899 he married Constance, the youngest daughter of the Honourable Sir William R Meredith, Chancellor of the University She and two children remain to love and revere his memory

Brilliant as a surgeon he was not less so as a teacher Extremely lucid in his ideas with a remarkable capacity for seizing the general principle in a mass of facts and with a terseness of speech that was his own, he never failed to win and keep the attention of students whether in the lecture room or at the bedside clinic It was his great efficiency as a teacher, as well as his standing as a scientific surgeon that led to his appointment as Professor of Surgery and Clinical Surgery when the amalgamation of the Faculty of Trinity Medical College with that of the University of Toronto took place Very soon thereafter however the indication of the condition, which ultimately cut short his life manifested itself and in consequence he was unable to play the part as a teacher that was his by reason of his attainments and his ability

He was not a ready or voluminous contributor to the literature of surgery and one reason for this was his rather exacting taste for clearness and terseness of language and he therefore, often recast completely a manuscript before it finally left his hands Every statement that he made was carefully thought out This was the case with the last paper, "The Choice of Operation in the Surgery of the Gall-Bladder" which he read before the Clinical Society recently Amongst the more notable articles which he recently prepared are those on "Surgery of the Rectum and Anus" in the International Text-book of Surgery edited by Gould & Warren and one on "Inflammatory Affections of Bone" in the System of Surgery of Bryan and Bucke

His whole life was one of intense activity and he loved it to be so He enjoyed every recreation that engaged the physically active side of his character and he played golf, was for a time an enthusiastic tandem driver and always a keen horseman His love of activity led him to join the Governor-General's Body Guard as a lieutenant and he attained the rank of major He organized "The Toronto Light Horse", the command of which he resigned some months ago

He was the soul of honour and fearless in his criticism of what he thought to be wrong His conception of what a surgeon should be was

not of clay-cold origin, and he held that character of the highest kind was the most essential element. Too many of the surgical operations of to-day, he claimed to the writer, were undertaken, not for the benfit of patients, but simply to increase the prestige and enhance the reputations of the operators. To prevent that degradation of surgery as a science and a servant of humanity it was in his opinion imperatively necessary that the surgeon should be of the highest type of manhood.

He bore the impending doom of fate with fortitude. The writer spent an evening with him about three weeks before his death and will never forget the earnestness with which he recited two stanzas of Newbolt's "Vita Lampada".

There's a breathless hush in the Close to-night—
Ten to make and the match to win,
A bumping pitch and blinding light,
An hour to play and the last man in.
And it's not for the sake of a ribboned coat,
Or the selfish hope of a season's fame,
But his Captain's hand on his shoulder smote—
Play up, play up, and play the game.

The sand of the desert is sodden red,
Red with the wreck of a square that broke;
The Gatling's jammed and the Colonel dead,
And the regiment blind with dust and smoke.
The river of death has brimmed its banks,
And England's far and Honour a name,
But the voice of a school-boy rallies the ranks:
Play up, play up, and play the game!

He certainly and splendidly played the game to the end through the darkest hours of his life. Ave et Vale.

A. B. Macallum

The Wellington County Atlas shows that practically all the older families of Eramosa could claim connection with Prof. George A. Peters by descent or marriage. James Peters was one of the most notable men on the second line of Eramosa. He was born in Lancashire, England, and came to Eramosa in 1826 with his mother, brother John and six sisters—Mrs. George Nelson, Mrs. John L. Birdge, Mrs. Isaac Clark, Mrs. Edward Huxtable and Mrs. John Rae. He took up and cleared Lot 23, Concession 2, and lived upon it the remainder of his days. He was the first Township Clerk of Eramosa and held the office for sixteen years. He rendered valuable service in connection with the early municipal life of the township and took an active and vigorous interest in all public or local matters. Mr. Peters and William Armstrong were the principal movers and were generous supporters in the establishment of The Congregational Church at Speedside.

During the trouble of 1837 he took sides with Mackenzie, and with some of his neighbours, was arrested and taken to Hamilton, Ontario to-

day is profiting by the stand taken by these fearless men In every matter and on every subject he had an opinion and the courage to express himself He was a successful farmer, a kind neighbour and had the respect and confidence of the community at large He married Hannah Johnston, she died in 1867 aged 70 while he passed away at the age of 68 Issue: John J , Mrs Andrew Lightbody Mrs James Morrison, Mrs. William Armstrong and Mrs James Campbell

John J settled in Eramosa, he married first Isabella Armstrong. Issue: James H , Jane, Dr Geo. A , Toronto, Dr Watson, Manitoba His second wife was Alice Hindley Issue Dr John B , Mrs. (Dr ) Crosby, and Dr. Joseph H at Hamilton

It will be seen that Prof Geo A. Peter's stepmother was Alice Hindley, daughter of the pioneer William Hindley, who like Prof Peters grandfather, was born in Lancashire William Hindley was born in 1787 and died in 1856 The Hindleys are a numerous family in Lancashire and the town of Hindley, about midway between Liverpool and Manchester, is named after them Mr Hindley was a soldier in the regular army for twenty years. He came to Canada in 1825 when the oldest daughter, Mrs Isaac Anderson of Luther was five years old At the time he came to Eramosa, it was a forest and Guelph a hamlet With the help of his son-in-law Isaac Anderson, he cleared his farm He was a man of great personal activity, working up to the time of his death of a genial disposition, quiet and unassuming He was an ardent sympathizer with Mackenzie in the rebellion of 1837 It was thought that he was a suspect at the time of James Peters' arrest, and he was hidden in a cellar to escape although it was not known whether there was any warrant out for his arrest He was an ardent Liberal and a member of the Anglican church He married Elizabeth Ingham, who died in 1866, aged 59 Issue John who was a Congregational minister and had two sons who are ministers in that denomination William, a farmer in Eramosa, where he owns 437 acres Joseph, George, a Congregational minister in the U S Mrs Isaac Anderson, Luther Mrs Jacob Smith Erin Mrs Jessie Anderson, Erin Mrs John Webb Erin Mrs William Webb U S A Mrs John Peters, Fergus Mrs. Richard Thomas, Barrie; and Eve in Eramosa

Joseph Hindley, born in 1845, settled on 100 acres in Eramosa with his brother After some years he sold out his interest to his brother, and in 1885 he purchased Lot 15 Con 7 Erin This is one of the best farms in Erin and he has built a fine brick house in which he enjoys prosperity. He makes a specialty of feeding hogs and cows Like his father he is an ardent Liberal but is independent in spirit He married Bella Robinson in Erin Township Issue Mary Lizzie and William Roy The last named, Roy, is the well-known auctioneer and elocutionist one of the mainstays of the Disciple Church, now living in Everton He told me yesterday that he is 66 His son Dan operates the old Jestin farm on Lot 10 townline Roy has a fund of pioneer stories he tells of a dressy lady member of the Everton congregation who proudly marched up the aisle one Sabbath morning attired in the latest concoction of female finery So startling was the appearance from the rear that a lady friend, seated near the back, seeing

the new fashion for the first time, hurriedly concluded that her neighbour had mistakenly donned her g ad rags backwards. She promptly despatched the daughter to the front of the church to whisper a friendly message to the fashionable lady that she should quietly retire and correct matters.

Roy himself wore a new suit to church w th the price tag visible, when chided by some fellow members, his ready reply was that the cloth was so similar to that of his old suit, that this was the only way to show off his new one. He also tells of the Englishman at prayer meeting who asked God to "conwert the unconwertable and conwince and unconwinced and conwict the wicked willage of Ewerton"

Among the best known descendents of William Hindley Sr. is his granddaughter, Miss Alice Hindley, Reg. N., of Guelph, a veteran of World War I and Inspector for the Prov ncial Welfare Department. Two other descendents are the Disciple ministers, Joseph and Ross Dempier, of U.S.A. In Eramosa are the prosperous farms of the three brothers. John A., James and Earl Hindley on Lots 23, 24 and 26 respectively on the sixth line and the farm of John s son, William, at Speedside. John served for many years as a d rector of The Eramosa Mutual F re Insurance Co., and as Councillor. Wm. H. was a charter member of the Eramosa Township School Board and Chairman in 1949. George, a son of James, is a prominent member of the staff of the G.C.V.I.

## William Sunter's Diary

A history of Eramosa should include the diary of William Sunter who died in Everton in 1917, aged 86, after spending most of his life in the township. Through the kindness of one of his descendents, I have read some 23 years of the diary covering the years 1866, 1870 to 1878, and 1900 to 1915. Mr. Sunter wrote about 75 words daily; the parts I have read would cover 1200 pages of double spaced foolscap which would correspond to approximately 1200 pages as printed in this book. Much of the diary is personal; the weather, family affairs, business and the farm operations being faithfully recorded. The remarks on church, school, municipal, provincial, dominion and world affairs, coupled with the highlights of births, marriages and deaths in the home and community, in their oftimes tragic setting of snowbound pioneer life, make the diary a real thriller.

Accurate details of Mr. Sunter's youth are not available at the moment but much can be gathered from the diary commencing in 1866. He mentions having left Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1847, at the age of 16 and there are frequent references to the despatch of money to an aunt and to a lawyer in Glasgow. There is also frequent reference to Aunt Ellen and Uncle Alex Ewart, presumably the sister and brother of Mr. Sunter's mother. Yesterday I saw the tombstone in Everton cemetery, inscribed as follows: Alex Ewart, died 1878, aged 72, Ellen Ewart, died 1885, aged 97, natives of Westmoreland, England, erected by their nephew, William Sunter.

It appears that both the Sunters and the Ewarts were borderline families, like the Grahams and Murdochs mentioned elsewhere and were

connected by marriage before coming to Canada. In 1866 William Sunter aged 35 was living with his wife Margaret McIntosh aged 32 on the north quarter of Lot 17 Concession 7 in the Township of Eramosa and Uncle Alex Ewart aged 60 lived with them. William's brother Alex, appears to then have been living on the East quarter of the same lot. It is said that another uncle Alex Sunter had previously owned the whole 100 acres and had settled his two nephews side by side with two sets of buildings. The map of 1850 shows the whole 100 acres owned by a Mr. McDougall. The house in which William Sunter lived was burned about the 1920's and the barn was burned in 1950 while the whole 100 acres was owned by Mr. Harold H. Smith.

William Sunter came to Canada when 16 years of age and spent the remaining 70 years of his life in the Everton district retiring to the old Disciple parsonage in Everton in 1911. He was well fitted to record community and worldwide events having the ability to write and the necessary patience and will. He was a great reader subscribing regularly to current papers and magazines. He was an insurance agent a member of the Eramosa Board of Health secretary of the Ospringe Farmers' Club and of The Grange secretary of a local fraternal society. He owned and operated a thresher sawing outfit chopper etc. he owned a good democrat that was much in demand for funerals etc. so that much of his time was spent away from home. There are few weeks that do not include trips to Everton Ospringe Rockwood and Guelph with frequent visits to Acton, Erin, Esquesing and Meaford. With all these opportunities to meet the public he was well posted on local events and his diary presents a picture of life in Eramosa from 1866 to 1915 that could hardly be equalled if printed in its entirety. In politics he was clearly a Liberal. He was not closely connected with any religious denomination and attended church very little until his years of retirement in Everton when he attended the Disciple church. His remarks on the Methodists "They are good beggars" and on one of the June meetings of the Disciples "I don't see why people should get so excited" seem to indicate that he was somewhat critical of the religious methods of his day. He was not an atheist for he acknowledges the goodness of God in sending a copious rain to quell the terrible fires of 1871 when it appeared that all human effort was unable to protect Everton and the surrounding district from flames. Forty years later on his 80th birthday March 6th 1911 he writes: "This is my Birth Day and having attained the longest limit spoken of in Scripture and which is only to be attained by reason of strength although accompanied by labour and trouble I have reason to feel thankful in having passed 80 years of life with so little suffering or trouble that much of mankind have to meet and experience and even at the present writing have not much to complain of excepting some inconvenience from rheumatism my appetite remains good and that is good for keeping up the strength. Ewart and I have spent part of the day back in the swamp cutting down and hauling out timber for the circular wood and some shingle stuff etc. the weather is very fine."

Here are some entries in the "Diary for 1866

January 15th. We are just now experiencing rather severe weather, from a week ago today until now the frost has been keen, with but little

snow, which has the effect of deepening the frost in the ground The wind has been high and cutting there is now a little snow falling and everybody is desirous of it, as the roads have hardly been fit for sleighs this season yet William Justin has commenced sawing this morning William Long and Jacob Smith are the sawyers

Tuesday 30th Raining this morning a little and continues to rain most of the day I brightened up towards night however and froze again Jamie and I have been to Guelph again today with wood we made up 4½ cords of 1 to 3 A Wood at $2 4 a cord I brought home 28 Patent Pails which makes out the 100 we pay Fifteen Dollars per 100 for them Alec got 124 lbs Peas bag included today We went by the York Road today and Jamie broke a whippletree on a bare spot I bought 6 lbs clover seed 12½ cents per lb also a Barrel salt at $1 87½ per Barrel

Monday Feb 12th A fine day after the fall of snow the snow is a little soft which has the effect of packing it I have drawn 3 loads of wood home today I am not very able to work at it my finger yet being very sore I paid Robert McWilliams the $2 00 the boot between the cutter and Cultivator Alex furnished the money I went to Erin to get Thomas Tolton to come and see Robert McWilliams reaper as I have an idea of trading the 2 year old colt for it Thomas is disposed to think not so badly of the reaper I think I may yet trade with him I do not like the idea of having to work on with a ringboned colt he offers an even deal

Tuesday 13th Continues mild I drew 3 loads of wood home today and left for Rockwood between 3 and 4 o'clock took Margaret to the Dr and he gave her some stuff I got 3 bags of peas ground also paid Torrance $7 00 but did not get it receipted as I forgot the account 50c more settles this last years account I paid the Dr 50c and still owe him 25c, he had not change to make it right I got 52 lbs of oatmeal and had not the due Bill to get it marked Margaret traded off about $1 00 worth of butter at Daniel Stewarts and I bought 3 window blinds and a candle stick which nearly made the 50c I got a Bushel of hen feed at Rufus I owe 25c for it

Wednesday 14th Quite a fall of snow last night and today a good deal has fallen the wind also drifts it some I did not draw wood this forenoon, thinking it too stormy James drew for Alex I drew 2 loads in the afternoon I also halfsoled and otherwise mended Robert McWilliams Boots, being part of the difference I had to give between the sleigh and the Cultivator I concluded a trade with Robert today giving "Dolly" the ringboned colt for his reaping machine we traded even on condition that the pitman of the machine does not require to be renewed in that event he pays me a Dollar towards fixing it if he has anything like good fortune with the colt

Saturday March 10th Getting much milder this has been a very fine day James was again with Nichol today with the team drawing cordwood out of the bush and drawing turnips from the pit it is now too icy for his oxen to walk I have been all day in the shoe shop Uncle Alex has finished a pair for himself and crimped a pair for me There was quite an excitement arisen in regard to the Fenians again this last week

Thursday, 22nd– Nothwithstanding the thunder and lightning of last night but one, today is cold and wintry, the hail that fell makes good sleighing although it needs packing it s like unpacked sand Still shoemaking, I have got my summer shoes made and Uncle finished a pair for my wear in the house I went to Rockwood today and paid Nelson the Tailor all I owe h m I owed him $2 25 and took 104 lbs of flour which made $2 85 I also paid him in cash $9 40 on John Rogers A/c which with the balance of flour made $10 00 Mrs Nelson gave me a present for Margaret of a bag of clippings for making rugs, in coming home I paid Gouskay for the tubs $2 50, the balance of the $4 00 was paid in stave bolts. I borrowed $15.00 from Aunt Ellen to pay these things today

Friday, 23rd Thawing today but not very warm Uncle and I took in 2 loads of turnips today from the pit they have not been keeping extra well, some rotten ones coming in our way I took Thomas Cutting's measure for a pair of summer shoes he provides the uppers I had a talk with George in regard to his journey through the States, and from all I can gather from him, I think we are about as well here in Canada

Tuesday, 27th A most beautiful day a wonderful change for the better I am sure we are all well prepared to welcome the advent of finer weather I have been down at Lawson's Saw Mill today for a load for Alex When reaching Acton, I had a great mind to return without going any further, I found the roads under the influence of the hot sun and had become so bare of snow I however went on and brought up 600 feet (price $5.00 per thousand) In com ng home I called at Mr Fyfe's as Alex desired to borrow 70 Dollars from Mr Fyfe to accommodate the Teacher I thought I might as well give my note for the amount and save Alex the trouble of going down after it, and the transaction will be placed on our books as Alex is entirely responsible for the money, the note is for 9 months at ten per cent per annum Alex McGregor sent over 5 bushels Beardy Wheat and 5 Dollars in money to pay f

Monday April 2nd–Very fine day I have been up most of the night, the little g rl was born at 4 o clock I brought Mrs Robertson about 2 o'clock n the morning And Margaret over the way, before going down for her Margaret is doing fine, also the baby This is a day of large additions, the sow has 9 little pigs and we have our first l ving lamb. I also brought up Katharine and took home Mrs Robertson and Mrs. Morton

Sunday, 8th A very fine day, the sun has not shone brightly all the time, it is rather a pity, as we need all the fine weather that it is possible to get I am afraid we are going to get a late Spring I have not been well today the old sow tore one of the little lambs through the sheep fence today while I was work ng with them and tore it to shreds before my eyes, it cut me up terribly to witness it

Thursday, 12th Fine, but I am afraid we will not have the proper Spring until considerable rain falls to take the frost out of the ground. I have been uncovering the Potato Pits today and find the potatoes are keeping much better then we were led to expect, some rain has fallen

tonight We brought enough of sugar up tonight to make up 175 lbs of sugar in all, there is also some sap at the bush.

Sunday, 15th Another very fine day. I have been rather sick today Two more lambs today, 1 each, we have only two ewe lambs in all we have We have just 8 lambs now following the ewes, we are trying to pet the one the ewe refuses Alex has given Johnny one they had in the same fix

Monday, 16th A very fine day, nice and cool for working I started the sod field ploughing today, the farthest back field on the north side of the lane, there is still a little frost in spots but on the whole it does not do so bad. Uncle has tapped the bush again today and taken in 38 pails of sap. John McWilliams was here today to see if I had any more white oats as his father-in-law wishes some I agreed to let him have some.

Sunday, 22nd Quite cool today and at night a little frost but very fine Dugald Robertson paid us a visit tonight there is a bad affair just happened in Rockwood, two young girls having come to their death by having Strychnine administered to them by mistake for worm medicine, it is said to have been given by the druggist for worm medicine.

Sunday, May 20th--Very hot nearly all day, well on in the afternoon there came a little thundershower which cooled the air, we only wish there had been more rain as it is much needed I had all the family over to Erin today on a visit, I took the waggon, it was very rough but we got along not so bad.

Monday, 21st A very cold day, this is surely a terrible country, the wind blows high today and very piercing, but yesterday I went to Thomas Tolton's visiting without a coat and I could wear one at the plough today and not be too warm. I ploughed ¾ of an acre today for potatoes, Uncle and Willie Cop in spread the dung and planted 4 bags of lents I had Betsy down at Everton tonight, she had some business at D F Stewart's. Thomas O'herran got his white oats away today

Esquesing, Monday 28th Still raining this morning until about 10 o'clock when it slackened up and afternoon it cleared up fine, this is a splendid growing rain I was afraid it might blow up cold but as yet it has not Between 12 and 1 o'clock we started for home again, we came by way of the eighth line and until we reached the sand hills had very heavy puling on the clay On arriving home we found Alex had suffered a very heavy loss in his sheep, he neglected shutting them up during the long cold rain and no less than nine ewes perished in consequence, 7 of them having lambs and two of them doubles, leaving 9 little orphan lambs, it is certainly a sorrowful catastrophe

Sunday, June 3rd Quite a fine day, it is now getting much warmer, it is looking somewhat like rain again I have written a letter to Wm. McCarter today and along with a paper, sent it to the Post Office tonight Wm and Peter Mitchell with their wives paid us a visit this afternoon and William took the letter and paper down. There is now a terrible excitement about the Fenian invasion, the first news of it was on Friday last; they

have had an engagement at Fort Erie in which quite a number were slain and wounded on each side it is too bad that the peaceable people of Canada cannot be let alone but allowed to be assailed by lawless men

Sunday, July 15th A very hot day Margaret and I started off for Esquesing at 3 o'clock this morning there had been some rain in the fore part of the night which made the roads a little heavy in places, but we got to Hornby by 10 o'clock We found Janet very poorly her looks seem to indicate something very serious Thomas' crops have been very roughly handled with a tremendous storm that passed over them on Friday night last the wind blew down a great part of their woods and fences, one barn completely levelled and others badly damaged, roofs taken off barns, houses sheds and partly off the Hornby church

Wednesday 25th A little cooler today I have been mowing all day; Uncle has helped Alex this afternoon to make hay I engaged Robert Jeshn today for the harvest work, he is to get $12 00 per month, if I should last 6 weeks he is to stay and get the same wage throughout, he also is to help with the hay by the day which time is counted in with the other and paid at the same rate

Thursday Sept 13th Quite a favourable change of weather, it has become cool and a good hustling wind is drying up the wetted crops. We have had Warren Jeshn helping us today James and him cradled, Robert, Uncle and I followed We finished cutting and binding the lower beardy wheat field by dinner time We brought in the upper one after dinner, it is rotten ripe the bands break.

Sunday 23rd Fine day but looks threatening, the wind has been blowing from the East all day Uncle and I have untied about 40 stooks of wheat today and after supper, took in 71 stooks (4 loads) Uncle Nichol helped us with 2 loads This is the first grain that I can ever remember of drawing in on a Sunday

1870 Saturday, October 1st Gloomy somewhat this morning and it was some time before we could make up our minds to start for Guelph. Alex and I however started with a load of oats each and it turned out to be a fine day after all The oats were grown on the Parker place and were owned by us in company I sold my load of 62 bushels for 33c per bushel. I had 32 bags they weighed very light Alex had 54 bushels and got the same price We sent away a Post Office order for 5 Pounds for Aunt Dalziel of Glasgow Bro Alex and I have settled up our account with each other of the mutual crops of Parkers and the money sent away with other little sundries, share of threshing etc and I now owe him $8 84 I bought a Dollar's worth of sugar crocks etc, at Woods, and paid him also this Diary at Day's 80c sundries at Cooperative, pincers Lightning apple parer, rope etc, at Bonds I am rather sick tonight the crop from Parker's Place came to $82 62 and I just took up $2 25 more than my share

Saturday, Dec 10th Patrick and Johnny went to Robert Morton's sawing this forenoon I went to the school meeting this afternoon, there was a poor turn out They left the valuation to three of the meeting Duncan Anderson, Hiram Swackhammer and Wm. Hismon, who valued the

contents of the school house at $10.20, leaving the wood till 25th Dec. to be again valued. I mended up the broken places on the wall, getting the material from Jonathan Tovell. I got $100.00 Eramosa assmt. from Jno. McKutcheon, also $70.00 from Robert Royce being the amount of Eramosa assmt.

Friday, 30th. Took another load of wood to Guelph, sold to Bell, the Melodian maker for $3.90, contracted for 5 cords at $3.75 per cord, contracted also with Mr. Warner for 2 cords at the same price.

Saturday, 31st. Patrick and I prepared 66 bushels of turnips for Nixon in Stewarttown, we were late in getting away on account of Alex McGregor being with us all night, we got down to father-in-law's by about 8 o'clock.

Sunday, Jan. 1st, 1871—Patrick and I started for home after getting dinner, Eliza and Martha accompany us, called by aunts and we were home in pretty good time, came by way of Acton.

Wednesday, Feb. 1st—Alex has started from his Eramosa home this morning, also Betsy and Wm. Thomas. Nichol and I took the start of Alex's team and were nearly at the head of the township before he made up to us, we all met at Fergus and had a good dinner at Speir's Hotel. Afterwards started ahead of Alex again, he however, making ahead shortly after, not meeting again until reaching Mount Forest, fed a little at Arthur and put up at Mount Forest in good time.

Thursday, 2nd. Mount Forest. Started from here this morning, weather very mild but having the appearance of a coming storm, did not pass a very comfortable night, bed bugs the cause. Did not get far on the road when the snow began to fall. Upon reaching Durham less snow was falling, got dinner and fed horses and off again, storm increases as we proceed until it gets very bad. Bro. Alex does not try to pass us today. Children and tender passengers all stand it very well, the covered rig acts like a charm, 14 inside in all, Alex, Uncle, Margaret, Betsy, Caroline, James, Annie, 3 babies and David. Annie, Louisa and Ellis arrive at Johntown after a severe buffetting from the terrible storm and find all well, put all up at Breezes in comfortable quarters, snow very deep up this way.

Friday, 3rd. Started after breakfast, I took the lead and found the roads much drifted, making very heavy travelling as far as Rockford Castle; Nichol there takes the lead until we pass Owen Sound, stop and have a good dinner about 10 miles from Meaford, when we again start for our destination, reaching it in good time in safety, all the inside travellers come off well and safe, much beyond our expectations. After unloading, I take Annie to her home in Meaford and remain all night with the horses, as also Nichol Rogers.

Saturday, 4th.-Meaford. Extremely cold this morning. James and Annie are taking every pains to make their guests comfortable. William and Betsy and Nichol and I have been with them all night. Thomas Tolton stayed all night at Wm. Mitchell's. Hitched up after dinner today and drove up to Alex's, drove back again in the evening and put up at James', pur-

chased 8 half-barrels of Salmon Trout at $3 50 each and have them ready to bring with us

Sunday, 5th – An extra turn of the screw has been put on this morning the frost and cold is intense have kept our horses steadily blanketed and much need they have of it, late breakfast this morning, everyone preferring the bed this morning to the floor Called to see Mr Madden, took dinner, Nichol and I with Wm Mitchell, started afterwards up to Alex Thomas, Nichol and I going soon to Daniel Stewart's for tea spent a pleasant evening there, Brother Alex joining us they seem to be comfortable and happy I left the horses there taking my hay and oats, and did them up for the night, when we all repaired for Alex's house very cold at Alex's Uncle Nichol takes very ill but gets better again, seems to be the effect of the cold.

Tuesday 28th Very fine day Patrick has been chopping at Erin he helped also to load up 6 loads of wood which Uncle and I drove home After getting dinner, I started for Guelph with the cattle along with Geo. Cutting and Benjamin Carr we reached McKerlie's in good time all safe

Wednesday March 1st We started early this morning from McKerlie's for Guelph with the cattle, arriving before 8 after a weary trial at selling, I parted with the two cows for $94 00 and started home with the 2 steers; it was a most uncommon dull market prices have not ruled so low for good cattle for some years so it was allowed Patrick drove in Margaret and the girls but I could not go home with them

Tuesday, 7th Thomas Mac has engaged today to come with me for 8 months at the rate of $11 per month I drove into Guelph with the buggy, James Theaker Jr also along and lifted James Theaker's mortgage, it was paid and registered by the sum of $513 25.

Sunday, 19th Cold today and looks like another storm, had to sugar off today or sustain a loss as we were filled up with sap, have over 20 lbs. of sugar

Sunday, April 2nd – Dull and soft today, the roads are now in a dreadful state, Margaret and I rode over to Thomas Tolton's this afternoon, Bella joined the Disciples a week ago last Friday

Friday, 14th Weighed and loaded up 1500 lbs. of hay for Rufus Everts, sold it last night, he paid me $8.00 on it and takes 1½ tons at $8.00 per ton

Sunday, 16th Margaret and I took a drive over to Nichol Rogers' on a visit, while there, Johnny came over in a hurry to inform us that Polly had got her leg broken We came home quickly to find it actually the case. Frank, the scoundrel, kicked her in the stall, we had a long job slinging and working with her, Henry Duffield, Wm Jestin, Thomas Cutting and Richard McWilliams kindly helped us.

Tuesday, 25th I went to Everton tonight and agreed to give Mr. McGilvray the house for the term of 6 months at the rate of $6.00 per month; we give him the garden but reserve all the fruit.

Monday, June 26– F ne today I have been rding on horseback considerable today, insured Luke Stout in the amount of $800 00 and Jno. Blanchfield in $1000. Got their notes and my fees are yet to be paid, agreed to take $1 25 from them. Preparing to start for Meaford and gone over to Thomas' tonight

Tuesday, 27th Fine morning but very warm Thomas and Bella with Margaret and Alex and I started for Meaford between 6 and 7 o'clock, the horses were very hot awhile at starting but became cooler as the day wore on, we made Flesherton awhile after dark and the horses seemed quite fresh

Wednesday, 28th Flesherton. Had a cooling shower this morning, which, with that of the afternoon s yesterday, must help the country up here We started again after breakfast by way of the "Couvin Valley", calling and view ng the "Eugene Falls The crops between the Valley and Meaford are generally very poor, the ter ble dry weather having completely baked everything up we reached Meaford at about 3 o'clock and after a little delay at Jamie s, proceeded on to Alex' where we found all well Bro. James is the only one which complains and he does not look well

Thursday, 29th Meaford Everything up here seems to be very dry Bro. Alex's crops appear to be something better than many on the road, whose clay soil suffers so much from protracted drouth

Friday, 30th Thomas and Bro. Alex and myself took a drive round by the 9th line of St Vincent and were much pleased with the appearance of the country

Saturday, July 1st Dominion Day and far away from home had a walk over Alex's farm and afterwards made ready for the excursion to Penetangu shene The boat was late of coming in, but on closing to the wharf at about 12 o'clock, a general rush was made to get aboard and little delay was made to get under way again We had a beautiful sail down to the Christian Islands, there was rather a stiff breeze, however, which had the effect of sickening many of the passengers, especially the women Mrs Wm Mitchell and s ster Betsy were very sick, Margaret and sister Bella stood it well, as also did all us menfolk The passage through and beyond the Chr stian Islands was particularly fine and the scenery picturesque and grand, and although the wind was high the waters remained very calm The land on the Christian Islands as also on the mainland, was nearly all covered with growing timber and presented a beautiful appearance The reformatory s a very impos ng looking building and occupies a finely elevated and commanding s te from the Bay Penetanguishene, a small town a little farther on also occupies a very fine position on the ris ng ground from the Bay The land where cleared, however, gives evidence of being very stony The boat remained a little while and many went on shore Many Indians and half-breeds occupy small houses on the shore We steamed home again shortly, calling for a few minutes at the Reformatory, the passage was, if anything, rougher in coming back Music and dancing was kept up almost unceasingly and the younger portion of the passengers seemed to enjoy themselves amazingly.

Uncle Nichol was the wonder of us all, he enjoyed himself well throughout We arrived at Meaford at ½ after 11 and after partaking of supper at James', Alex drove us all up to his home.

Sunday, 2nd Fine morning We made ready and started for home at about 11 o'clock Thomas sailed through to Owen Sound with the Boat and we called at Owen Sound, getting him and his cousin We were late in reaching Uncle Andrew's house Thomas and I slept at Edwin's, they had some trouble to put up all our company at Uncle's house we had Alex's wife with us, Margaret, Miss Tolton, Bella and our Alex 12 o'clock, I think, saw us off to bed

Monday, 3rd Thomas and I along with cousin Edwin and Willie Ewart had fine sport this forenoon fishing in their lakes, we got I should think nearly 30 lbs of fish After dinner we started southward again, we made the new hotel within 4 miles of Jellie's and were well entertained the six of us besides little Alex had supper and breakfast and only charged $3 00 At Munshaws, we were charged the same amount with two less people, besides I was destroyed with bugs at Munshaws and rest tonight

Tuesday, 4th– Rain last night and this morning did not know whether or not to start this morning, it was so wet like, after breakfast, however, we risked it and did not suffer much after all We got down as far as Lizzie McMillan's (Tolton) and had dinner Daniel, her husband, was not at home, they seem to have a fine place

Wednesday, 5th Fine growing weather, the crops have improved a great deal while we have been away, especially the peas We find a great difference between this part and the northern country Margaret is very tired with her journey and grumbling away

Sunday, August 6th Another hot day and very smoky it is a pity that we do not get a little rain Our peas are dead ripe and the oats will be ready to cut this week Margaret and I paid Thos Tolton a visit this afternoon, Aunt Ellen is over there, she went there last night and intends to stay some weeks.

Wednesday, 9th A continuation of that awful dry and smoky weather, in the morning, before breakfast the air is completely filled with smoke so that one can't see any distance.

Friday, 11th Continues this terrible dry weather without the slightest intermission Peavoy's folks have been putting out fire and it is like to gain the upper hand of them I cut round a part of the oat field to be ready for the reaper, altogether we have our hands full.

Saturday, 12th Some appearance of rain but they all go off without allowing us a drop, really the country is suffering terribly now

Sunday, 13th Still as dry as ever with very little signs of change. The fires on our line by Peavoy's and Theaker's are raging pretty bad today, I walked down to see them

Monday, 14th—An extremely hot day, the fires are raging as bad as ever. Johnny has reaped a good share of the oat field today, we bound

up what we cut on Saturday evening I have engaged Alex McGilvray to work for us until he makes a month (26 days) at $12 00. I think he has 10 or 11 days in now

Tuesday, 15th Terribly hot and sultry. Very heavy thunderstorm came on at noon, and a most opportune rain it was; looked almost like a special providence Everton was threatened with a most fearful fire and just as it seemed ready to envelope everything in its relentless grasp, then came the timely rain Mark Sutton had about 10 acres of good wheat burned clean off

Saturday, Sept 9th Very dry Thom and I have been ploughing at the rough part of our summer fallow the part of Bro. Alex old farm About 4 o'clock I drove the mares to Everton, got 2 shoes put on Polly's front feet she has plowed these 2 days back and seems to stand it finely

Tuesday, 26th Rained considerable last night and looks very dull this morning, for the show, cleared up, however by 7 o'clock and off we go Johnny makes the first start with the Bull calf and Willie next with the colt Fanny and I with Bella and Alex follow with the waggon Great show of stuff, we take 2nd prize on Firkin butter, 2nd on the plums and 4th on the bread All the calves were in better condition than ours, the colt, also the peas, were entered in the wrong class

Friday, 29th was up before 5 this morning, and along with James Morton, went to Neil McPhail's place with the sawing machine, we did a very good day's work at sawing cedar blocks 8 inches long for laying his cattle stable floors with.

Sunday, Oct 8th Dry and windy The fires are starting again in some places, this is a wonderful dry October.

Monday, 9th Continues as dry as ever and the wind is driving the fires considerably I got Dick and Fanny shod in Everton today, while there Johnny rode down to inform me that his mother had taken ill. I drove hard to Rockwood to send the Doctor, he got along in good time and twin boys were born about 8 o'clock

Wednesday, 11th There is a great rush to Guelph today, there are now reports of a tremendous fire at Chicago

Thursday, 19th Weather much as usual, such a continued drouth is almost unprecedented, cool and windy, many of the fires around are as threatening as they were in the earlier part of the season.

Friday, 20th—Dry, dry, and with the terrible Chicago disaster one can hardly think themselves safe while such weather lasts, the wells in the country are drying up, many are dry.

Monday, 23rd Continues smoky and dry as ever, the fires around are reviving again and in many places doing harm.

Wednesday, Nov. 1st Rain last night and today and not the best promise from the look of the morning, it cleared up, however. I was at Guelph and sold one tub of butter at 19c per lb; it weighed 100 lbs. clear

of tare, got $19.00. I left the matter of the 3 acre dispute in the hands of Guthrie.

Saturday, 25th—Thrashed two floors of pees with the horses which with another flooring we thrashed some time ago, made 13½ bushels

Monday, December 25 Very fine day Cleaned up a load of wheat and took it in it weighed 35 bushels and 47 lbs. I have to get the money yet The roofs have been blown off many buildings with Saturday night's wind storm among them Peter Stewart's barn Hugh Black's, Croff's, Robert Root's, David Awrey's, Henry Smith's, Geo Peavoy's, Neil McPhail's old barn, Robert Reid's Robert Walker's, Hyman's McDougalls etc., etc. It is not often (and it is as well) we have such an array of casualties in so little territory the wind was terrible while it lasted Robert Jestin has been married today the snow is greatly away

Friday March 1st, 1872—Very fine today we had a bad night with poor little Albert Margaret his mother and I attended him ourselves, which, indeed we have done all through his sickness, with the exception of what little help poor Bella and Uncle gave us on one night and both of us are getting done out in consequence He seemed to be in considerable pain and we tried many ways for his relief As morning approached we could see a so that his end was approaching and at ten o'clock he breathed his last poor little mannie his end was indeed peace I went after dinner to Guelph and got a coffin and shell and was home again in good time It is a very decent cloth covered coffin with very suitable trimming, costing $3 37½, very reasonable, I think, but all they asked I paid Mr Watt $6 00 which with the $8 00 he owed me for wood, making $14 00 paid them in full for charge connected with Sheriff's Deed, investigation and opinion

Saturday, 2nd A very fine day John Smith of Everton and Nichol Rogers dug the grave this forenoon, I went down and saw it started, pretty punctually we started at the hour for the Burial Ground Margaret and Bella and the two boys accompanied us to the Burial there were eight other vehicles there Thomas Tolton's Benjamin Carrs Uncle Duncan's John Webb's, Thomas O'Herran's Nicholas Wright's, Nichol Rogers, and Robert McWilliams'

The foregoing entries are copies of a few of the hundreds made by William Sunter up to the 41st year of his age Thousands of entries followed and here are a few made when he was 85

Sunday, January 9th, 1916 Cold moderate today, have been reading quite a bit today Willie McKenzie here this evening his father not very well and he had to stay at home till later on Maggie and he went home at night I have written a long letter to Bertha Sunter this evening, and thanking her for the present of the book "Prophets, Priests and Kings."

Monday, 10th Quite a thaw on this morning and looks as if considerable rain had fallen through the night a glit of ice pervades all the surroundings. Willie McKenzie was at the mill today, and I took the chance of getting up 2 bags of hen feed, 60 lbs rolled oats, 72c, and wheat, $1.30

and 80c corn, in all $2 82, pa d by cheque for $8 00, $5.20 left a balance for me.

Tuesday, 11th Froze up again last night and it is very slippy and dangerous to wa k over the ice today. I walked up to the corner this morn-'ng to Tovel 's with my late purchase of a pair of pants to see if they would take them for exchange for a size smaller. I walked over to Henry Cutting's and have wr tten a letter to sister Bess e, South Vancouver.

## A Pioneer Family

Having planted the seeds which grew the first apple trees in the county of Wellington, is part of the interesting story of the pioneer family of John and Rachel Ramsey.

In 1819, John Ramsey in company with two brothers Robert and Henry, recent emigrants from north of Ireland to the State of New York, left there to settle in Upper Canada. L ttle York (now Toronto) was then the hub of the new settlement

The township of Eramosa was then in the course of survey and open for settlers. After taking the Oath of A.leg.ance the three brothers drew 100 acres each n the new townsh p. John drew the east half of Lot No. 1, Robert the west half of Lot No. 1 and Henry the west half of Lot. No. 2, all in the Third Concession

Journeying on foot from Little York by way of Dundas Street, following the surveyors' "blaze" which is now the Guelph Road through the townships of Nelson and Nassagaweya, they arrived at their destination. After examining their lots they returned to Dundas Street, Nelson township, where they worked for John Cleaver, making oak staves for potash barrels which were rafted down the lake to Montreal

In the spring of 1820 the three brothers provided themselves with a few articles of which the axe was the most essential and again walked over twenty mi es through the unbroken forest to the allotted place, which was to be their future home.

On John Ramsey's lot the surveyors had left a wigwam This served the brothers as a shelter until they completed a log shanty which served them as a dwe ling for about four years

In 1821 John Ramsey married Rachel Cleaver, the daughter of his former employer. After the wedding ceremony she mounted a horse already heavily oaded with equipment and set off with her husband for the.r wilderness home. Mrs Ramsey had the disquieting knowledge that there was not another white woman with.n twenty miles She is reputed to have been the first white woman resident in the county of Wellington.

From apples served at their wedding breakfast, Mrs. Ramsey saved a few seeds which she planted. From these seeds came the first apple trees grown in the county of Wellington.

On February 12th, 1822, their first child was born. An amusing incident happened with the birth of the baby. The family cat hearing the feeble cry of the newcomer, took fright and fled to the bachelor shanty of John Harris, located on the site where Rockwood now stands. Two other children were later born to the family. Martha in 1823 and John in 1825.

In 1823 a purchase was made of 100 acres across the road in the township of Nassagaweya for the sum of 22 Pounds. Also during that year they erected a log house 24 x 30 ft. with the assistance of all the men in the vicinity, numbering eighteen.

Tragedy overtook this pioneer home when after only eleven years of married life, at the age of thirty-nine, the husband and father was called by death. How his brave pioneer comrade carried on, with three small children to care for, is a story in itself. Mrs. Ramsey lived to be sixty-nine years. Her grandchildren remembered her as a familiar figure coming to visit them riding on a white horse.

In 1839 Mary Ramsey, that first child of Eramosa, was married to Henry Scott, an emigrant from the north of Ireland. They settled on Lot No. 18, Concession 2 of Eramosa township where they raised ten children.

When the first child in this family was about six months of age, the mother and baby were left alone for three days while the husband travelled to Dundas to have wheat ground into flour. Sufficient wood and water were stored in the house and the door provided with extra bars as security against interference from prowling Indians.

The second daughter, Martha Ramsey, married Walter Scott and also settled on an Eramosa farm. Their family died in infancy.

John Ramsey married Mary Daniels and two daughters were born to them. John remained on the family farm. During the years a large stone house was built on the Nassagaweya side and a large barn on the Eramosa half of the property. He took an active interest in community and municipal affairs being reeve of Nassagaweya township from 1873 to 1881. His later years were spent retired in a rough-cast stone house on the Eramosa side of the farm. The making of beautiful rustic chairs was one of his hobbies, these he gave away to his many friends and neighbours. He had a very interesting collection of pioneer relics, also a collection of odd rocks. Under his direction the rocks were built into a monument for himself, this is now a landmark of interest in the Ebenezer Cemetery, Nassagaweya.

In those early homes soap was made by leeching ashes to procure lye to which waste fat was added and boiled in an outdoor kettle. Candles were made from tallow which was the name for sheep fat. In the spring maple syrup and maple sugar were made in large quantities. The first spiles were made of cedar, and troughs for catching the sap were blocks of wood hollowed out with an axe. Cheese was made at certain times. On one occasion a relative driving a herd of cows for some distance stopped overnight at Henry Scott's. In the morning the cows were milked

Mrs. John Ramsey, (Rachel Cleaver) first white woman settler in Eramosa

JOHN REA
"Father of the Council"

and cheese made from that extra supply of milk. A calf was killed and its stomach used to procure the starter for the cheese.

As we recall these stories of this pioneer family, we feel that it can truly be said of them as it was of the Pilgrim Fathers

"Aye, call it holy ground,
The soil where first they trod
They have left unstained what there they found—
Freedom to worship God."

(Mrs.) Florence Trousdale, R.R. 1, Puslinch
(A granddaughter of the first white child born in Eramosa)

## The Pioneer Sunleys

Pioneer of the Sunleys of Eramosa Township and Guelph was William Sunley, a native of Helmsley, Blackmoor, Yorkshire, who came to Canada in 1831 and after four years in Toronto as a shoemaker, he came to Eramosa in 1835 where he purchased 200 acres of land, Lot 9, Con. 2, which he cleared and lived upon until within a few months of his death at the home of his son, William in Guelph. This Sunley patriach had a great reputation as an angler, especially in fly fishing and he was a trout authority of the whole district in the days when the speckled beauties were still plentiful. In religion he was a Congregationalist and in politics a staunch Reformer.

Mrs. Sunley was the former Rachel Coats. Their sons and daughters were Robert, William, Elizabeth, George, John, Henry, Mary and Noah. Of these, George was born in England in 1815, where he became a tinsmith's apprentice, having to be bought off when the family emigrated to Canada. He completed the learning of the trade in Toronto and then came to Guelph where he started the first tinsmithing business. His death occurred in 1857, two years after taking Robert Melvin as a partner in the business which was carried on as Sunley and Melvin. Some years previous to this he had bought the Matheson interest in the firm of Smith, Matheson & Co. This was then conducted as Smith, Sunley and Co. Site of the foundry was that which later accommodated the Opera House.

George Sunley was the first Deputy-Reeve of Guelph. Reeve in 1856 and Mayor from January 1st, 1857 up to the time of his passing that year. Among those who attended his funeral in Guelph was William Lyon Mackenzie, of whom George Sunley had been a great supporter. Henry Sunley had a son, Noah, who was a Councillor in Eramosa in 1898, 1899 and 1900 and Reeve in 1901 and 1902. Noah's son, Henry, was Councillor in 1920 and 1921. William Sunley's son Noah was the leader of Guelph's first band. It was known as Sunley's Band and its members included his three brothers, George, Robert and William. In 1849, when Lord Elgin came to Guelph, Sunley's Band went down Waterloo Road six miles from Guelph and met him. Sheriff Grange's carriage with four horses and two postillions brought him into town. William Sunley, who was born in Guelph in 1841, was a son of George, the second Mayor of the Town. He was one of the earliest members of the Maple Leaf Baseball team and a pitcher for about

ten years with the notable aggregation which brought such baseball fame to the Royal City.

The Sunleys were connected by marriage with such Eramosa families as the Parkinsons, Benhams, Tovels, McFarlanes, Sockets, Days, and Hawkins. It is noted that while Mayor George Sunley was a supporter of William Lyon Mackenzie, his brother Noah, leader of the band, was a supporter of James Gold e and Sir John A. Macdonald.

## The Wansbrough Family

William Wansbrough Sr. was a soldier in the British Army, he served in the Peninsular War and was at the battle of Waterloo. He died at the age of 101, his wife, Rebecca Holmes, also of Irish descent, died at 92. He came to Canada in 1835 and settled in Alton, where he lived retired on his pension. Issue: Richard, George and Edward in U.S.A., Robert, died in Orangeville, Thomas, died in Erin Township, Mrs. James Davis and Mrs. James Lang, Erin Township, Mrs. Wm. Dickson, Grand Valley, and William, Jr.

William Jr. was born in Cork County, Ireland, in 1822 and came to Canada in 1835 with his parents. He located on 150 acres on Lot 26, Con. 11, Erin, when 21 years old. He cleared this farm, sold it and purchased Lot 28, Con. 10. He retired to Binkham on the death of his wife, Ann Nodwell, in 1876. He was Postmaster there and built the brick house, the only house remaining in 1950 in the hamlet of Binkham. His second wife was Miss Berry of Erin Township. He died in 1923 aged 91 and is buried in Huxley's Cemetery, Hillsburgh. Issue: Mrs. John Barnes, William, Mrs. Tozer, Robert H., Thomas N., Richard, Mrs. Chas. Becker, Mrs. R. B. Roberts and Mrs. Louis Laird.

Robert H. Wansbrough secured his certificate as a teacher at Ottawa Normal School and taught at No. 8 Erin and at No. 8, Eramosa, in the 1870's. He lived for a few years on San Juan island and returned to farm on Lot 4, Concession 7, Eramosa. He retired to Acton in 1917 and died there in 1929, aged 78. His wife was Emma Augusta Swackhamer of Churchill, a sister of Hiram A. Swackhamer, one-time Reeve of Acton and Warden of Halton County, and a sister of Arthur Swackhamer, formerly Reeve and at present a Councillor Erin Township. She died in 1949, aged 88. Issue: Herbert Roy, who farmed on Lot 4, Con. 7, Eramosa, and built the present brick house thereon, later becoming the President and General Manager of Sterling Caskets, Ltd., Toronto. Ella Leola, married Frank Day. Annetta B. married Gordon MacKay of Forest Hill. Anna M. married Allan G. C. Smith of Acton, and Harold L. married Kathleen Craddock of Toronto. Of this family only the Days remained in Eramosa where four children were born. Fred Day, M.A., Head of the Maths. Dept. at Central High School of Commerce, Hamilton, author of "Junior Commercial Arithmetic," married Margaret E. Thomas of Rockwood, issue, Mary Margaret and Christopher R. A. George Franklin Day is Postmaster at Rockwood, he married Grace B. Gordier of Rockwood, issue, Janet E. and Jean E., Marion E. Day, Reg. N., married F/L Milton G. Greer, B.S.A., of Hamilton, issue

Glen J., Diane E and Gary Frank. Roy C Day, B.Sc., proprietor of Truck Canopies, Ltd., Toronto.

Thomas N the third son of Wm Wansbrough Jr married Annie Barnet and became Reeve of Fergus and later Clerk He was buried in Fergus and a special C.P.R train came from Toronto for his funeral, carrying his cousin, James Wansbrough, Chief Despatcher for the C.P.R.

## A Drive in November

One of the penalties of living retired is that of having to empty the wash water on Monday morning This was frequently the excuse of the late John Lister when he came to Rockwood Post Office a few minutes later than usual on Monday mornings Monday, November 7th, 1949, found me at noon with this little chore accomplished, also a trip to the Post Office and a brief glance over the Globe and Mail and Friday's copy of "Hansard" (by courtesy of H A Hosking, M.P.) Dinner, a smoke and nap, brought 2.15, and I remarked to my wife that some books should be delivered to No 6 (Luttrell's) School and some apples should be delivered in Acton the temperature was 48, the sun was shining, the roads dry and it was a lovely day for a country drive What about it? "I'll be ready in 15 minutes" said she

We stopped for a minute or two at the bank, the beautiful weather outside was reflected in the face and manner of the always courteous manager, J H Gibb. It was readily seen that a loan for $100.00 would be an easy touch today, but we remembered "Yield not to temptation" and decided not to take advantage of The Royal Bank of Canada We had a word or two with our successor as Clerk and Treasurer of the Township of Eramosa S. S. Royce while in the bank and learned that he had received an assessment appeal to the Judge within seven months of taking office We thought this was rather rough on a new Clerk, for we remembered the appeal of Gypsum, Lime & Alabastine to the Judge when we had held office only a few months and after having to conduct an election for Reeve and Councillor during our first four months The Gypsum appeal was the first from Eramosa since The Grand Trunk Railway had appealed 50 years earlier therefore it was the first from Eramosa for His Honor Judge R L McKinnon Several appeals have intervened but this new appeal will be the first from Eramosa to His Honor Judge R S Clark

Leaving the village past the station the residence of former M.O.H Dr K B. Waller the residence of Ex-Councillor Wm J Pinkney (died in 1951), and the former farm of the late Councillor Jos Stovel on the right, and the rear of Deputy-Reeve Ernest Benham's farm (Reeve in 1952) on the left, the first man we saw was Ex-Warden and present Reeve D D Gray (reeve until 1951) dragging his lane with a tractor The lane of any Reeve who gets around as much as D D. Gray needs occasional attention Next farm on the right was that of Councillor Thos G Hutchinson (retired in 1951), who still resides there with his daughter and son-in-law.

Three miles from Rockwood on the paved County Road, we crossed No. 24 Highway, for many years this had been a bleak corner, but the

past 2 or 3 years have seen the erection of the inviting Brucedale Store and Service Station on the West corner and Duncan Kingsbury's fine new home on the North corner. Another ½ mile brought us to the home of the late Warden W. A. Dickson, now occupied by Mrs. Dickson, her daughter and son-in-law. Then came the Forsyth farms. Thomas (died in 1952) former Assessor on the left, the third Thomas Forsyth in a direct line to live in this vicinity. A tall elm on Tom's farm marks the exact centre of the township 3½ concessions from the Guelph and Erin boundaries and 16 lots from the Nassagaweya and Garafraxa boundaries. If one has time it is wise to stop on the top of the hill at Lot 19 on any clear day, the twin towers of the Church of Our Lady, Guelph may be seen and on this November day with the leaves off the trees, St. Peter's Church at Oustic could be seen 2½ miles up the road. It is only at this season that the good roads and absence of leaves and steamed windows provide for such magnificent views of rural Eramosa. The countless houses and barns, herds and pasture, green Fall wheat and plowed stubble, bush and green swamp, compete strongly with the all green of Summer or the multicolored maples of October.

We had to turn right at Lot 20, leaving the County road and noticing on the West corner, the closed cemetery of the former Church of the Ascension, the first Anglican Congregation to be established in Eramosa. One concession brought us to Luttrell's School and two more to the Township of Erin which has no sideroad at Lot 20. Driving down the townline, past the home of James Mitchell who filled almost every municipal office in the Township of Eramosa about 100 years ago, we entered Erin Township on No. 17 sideroad. This is the only road except the two townlines, that crosses the 10 miles of Erin Township without a jog or bend, no other such road running NE to SW exists in either Erin or Eramosa.

At the 1st line corner we look up one lot to the buildings of the late Robt. J. Kerr, noted breeder of Yorkshires, auctioneer, Deputy Reeve of Erin and later a prominent man about town in Acton. Bob was a Methodist, in 1919 he conducted a furniture sale in Rockwood. I attended with an elderly lady friend who took Methodism seriously. Bob was trying to sell a rug. "How much am I offered for this rug, practically good as new" he asked. My lady friend was unused to the wiles of auctioneers. She said, "I am surprised at Mr. Kerr, you can see that rug is half worn out. And him a Methodist, too" she added.

Right on the North corner is the first house to be erected on that 100 acres, which had been owned by the McWilliams family and the late Geo. A. Marshall, former Postmaster at Everton. This hundred was purchased by the writer from the late Rance Howitt, President of The Guelph Trust Co. and sold to Russell McDonald, who is erecting the first house on the property over 100 years after the general settlement of the district.

Crossing the County Road, we reach the farm of Judge R. L. McKinnon, stretching from the 2nd to the 3rd Lines. We always stop at the 3rd for the view Northward toward Hillsburgh and Conningsby. Summer, Fall or Winter, it is worthwhile. Down in the valley, we turn South-east on the 4th line, remembering that the last time we were there, the bridge over

the creek was lying at a drunken angle with one side in the water, and we crossed only after careful inspection and with a touch of jitters. This time, a new cement bridge spans the creek and we quickly climb to the hills again to look North to "The Maples" (burned in 1952) on the 6th, the home of Chester Burt, the pleasant summer resort and scene of wedding breakfasts and chicken suppers so ably provided by Mrs. Burt for residents and organizations of Guelph and vicinity. In between, on the 5th, lies the home of Chester's brother, Goodie, the popular Reeve of Erin Township (Warden in 1951). Down the 4th, crossing No. 24 Highway, we again pause to view the up-to-date plant of S. E. Griffin & Son, on the 5th, perched on the height of land near where water will run either to Lake Erie or Lake Ontario. This farm is the residence of Harold L. Griffin, Councillor for Erin (Deputy Reeve in 1952) and the home of many championships in Shorthorns, grain and potatoes. Crossing No. 5 sideroad we overhauled a farmer with a team and democrat, a rare sight nowadays, had not seen a vehicle for an hour. He pulled out to let us pass and being acquainted we enjoyed a few minutes chat. Proceeding over the Halton-Wellington boundary we by-passed the Church's settlement and the home of Arthur Swackhamer, Ex-Reeve of Erin Township, on the right.

No. 7 Highway and a speed up to 40-50 quickly brought us to Acton, whose Main Street was cluttered with parked cars and trucks on both sides, leaving barely room for through traffic in the centre. Driving through there is so dangerous that everyone drives slowly enough to make it quite safe. On visiting a sick friend we were again reminded of the beautiful weather by finding him sitting with no coat, vest or sweater, the ordinary fire making the house almost uncomfortably warm on a balmy afternoon.

We had occasion to visit Fairview Cemetery, having buried a relative there recently; we passed the memorial to William Johnston, the founder of probably the best known and most efficient undertaking establishment in the district, now ably continued by his son-in-law, V. B. Rumley. Close together were the monuments of the Wansboughs, Lambs and Murrays, all former residents of Crewson's Corners. John Murray, who married a Swackhamer, his sons Al and Will. A being the benefactor who gave Acton its excellent Y.M.C.A. building and other bequests. Will, who trimmed the Blue Spring Park to make an almost perfect setting for its present use by the Provincial Boy Scout authorities. Walter Lamb, the mason who built his own monument with field stone, whose father built the dry stone fences on the Harris farm in Rockwood and whose son Orrie continues proficient in the family art.

We glanced at the monument of Sir Donald Mann of railway fame and at those of the McNabbs and Grahams from Eramosa. Way back on the hill, we noticed the fresh grave of Mrs. Al Necklin, mother of Guelph's city engineer, and of Mr. Holmes, brother of H. S., former C.N.R. agent. Coming back we saw preparation for the burial of W. R. E. Blair, well-known Acton tinsmith. In the North corner stands the monument to Jack Wilder-spin, winner of the Military Cross in World War I, with whom we attended school 50 years ago in England. We have been charged with a sort of morbid sadness in our tendency to look over cemeteries, we do not find

it sad, it is historically interesting, and since one usually thinks of departed friends and acquaintences in a most generous manner, we know of no place where one can meet with so many old friends, in a sense, in a short time

Coming over the sort of Bailey bridge on Highway 25 through Acton to No. 7 Highway we again speeded up to 40-45 only to be halted with the request to "turn up the 1st line and see how Ed Pearen's new house is coming along" Turning North, we passed the former home of Wes Murray (died in 1952), one-time Reeve of Esquesing. we remember Wesley bringing his bride to Crewson's Corners Church one Sunday morning after the honeymoon over 40 years ago Crossing again into Wellington, we saw the farm of Wesley's father, Andrew a former Deputy-Reeve of Erin

Noting the progress on the new house at No 5 sideroad, we turned toward home and were treated to the sight of a huge deer crossing the road a few yards ahead of the car He came from Joel Leslie's swamp and his graceful leap over Ed Pearen's fence was worth driving miles to see

The unanimity of the local councils of the County of Wellington in not allowing deer hunts this year, is being welcomed in many circles Naturally, other views are held, but many residents do appreciate the protection of the handsome deer of whom they only get a glimpse once every few years The Clerk of Eramosa states that after 50 years residence in the township, he has not seen a deer at large We have seen them at pasture in England France and Alberta but can only remember 11 in over 40 years near Eramosa and these all within the past 10 years The first we saw was ambling down beside the river at Everton, then, with Oswald Meadows we sighted four one Spring beside the little river just outside Rockwood Four years ago we saw a beauty crossing the clearing at the Nassagaweya Esquesing townline just SW of Acton In 1945 or 1946 we saw a couple one evening on Lot 18 Con 1 Erin In June of 1947, we saw one on Lot No 10 sideroad Con 5 Eramosa jumping into Will Peart's field Later the same summer we watched a small one feeding for a while at Lot 18, Con 2 Erin then it leaped into Judge McKinnon's farm They may become a nuisance but have hardly reached that stage yet, it is believed that small numbers are illegally killed annually There is a good story told of a prominent Eramosa farmer who knew that some deer were making their home in his swamp One Christmas afternoon a few years ago he thought a bit of venison might be alright so slipped away to the upper 100 with his trusty gun A younger neighbour was also idle that Christmas afternoon and saw the first man crossing the clearing over the road, suspected the idea and followed It was easy to follow the tracks of the first man in the snow as he was more intent regarding the front than the rear The two men were not far apart when Bang! Bang! sent a couple of beauties racing through the bush The fancy language of the younger man as he shouted ridicule for the poor marksmanship, so startled the first man that he still thinks of Game Wardens when he hears a shout in the bush

Coming nearer Rockwood we passed the farm of Councillor Geo. Wallace and crossing into Eramosa we sight the Black home where Jim, the Reeve who won an election in 1914 by a majority of one, spent his life. Midway across the concession, on the right, is the site of the birthplace of the great J. J. Hill and on the East half on the left, the home of Harvey Bayne whose greatgrandfather Burns originally settled down the road on Lot 3. It is said that the Bayne farm was acquired by the Burns family for building a road through the swamp at Lot 3. Also on the left can be seen the farm of Charlie McNabb. Charlie is the only man in Eramosa Township who can say that his grandfather and father were successively Reeves of the Township. Charles Senr. for som years about 1913 and Archie for some years about 1927. Both lived on this same farm which had been settled by William of a still older generation. One would almost expect young Charlie to enter council at some time he should do allright, having won public speaking contests when a boy.

Still nearer Rockwood, we pass the boyhood homes of the Dunbar family, forefathers of C. L. Dunbar, K.C. (died in 1951) and Angus Dunbar, K.C. prominent in legal circles in Guelph for many years. The present M.P. for S. Wellington Henry A. Hosking spent most of his boyhood just outside the village on a former Dunbar farm. Driving in on Harris Street, in the gathering dusk the street lights flashed on at about 5.30.

We had travelled 32 miles in three hours.

## Eramosa Township Officials Arrested as Rebels in 1837

It is 99 years on December 13th since stirring scenes were witnessed in the arrest of seven prominent men in the Township of Eramosa. James Peters, an Englishman from Lancashire was Township Clerk at the time, he had settled in 1826 at the age of 25 on Lot 23 Concession 2, now the home of Charles Gordon, and tells the story vividly of how he was arrested in bed before daylight by Squire Inglis of Guelph with a glittering drawn sword, and a company of 32 men with rifles and bayonets. Sixteen of the men entered the house the remaining half of the company guarding other prisoners in the early morning hours. Mr. Peters was highly indignant at the manner of his arrest claiming that an Englishman's home was his castle and that the Queen's business required such haste that he was hardly given time to dress before being bundled into the waiting sleigh with the other prisoners.

The eldest of the men arrested was John Butchard, who resided on Lot 13, Con. 3 now the home of the Reeve D. H. Storey he was later a Commissioner for the township. Another prominent prisoner was James Benham an Englishman from London, for many years a township official and the father of J. W. Benham, also a councillor, James Benham's grandson, Charles, served as councillor and Road Supt. in Eramosa for many years, while another grandsom, Joseph was Reeve of Erin, and is still Road Supt. of that Township.

Peters aged 36, Butchard, aged 49, and Benham, aged 43, were supposed to be the ringleaders of the gang of rebels who were planning to march to Guelph to burn the town down.

Rumor was strong in Fergus that "Capt." Peters, Clerk of Eramosa, with 50 men, and supported by township officials, was planning to destroy the bridge over the Grand river. Special guards were on duty in Fergus as in Guelph.

Other men arrested were William Armstrong, 20, a son of Thos. Armstrong, the first District Councillor from Eramosa; Calvin Lyman and Hiram Dowlan, 36. With six men under arrest, the party of 32 soldiers under Squire Inglis, drove into the yard of Joseph Parkinson, a native of Lancashire, England, the local Justice of the Peace, and an early Treasurer of the township. They demanded breakfast and feed for the horses, this was provided, and the Parkinsons were rewarded by the arrest of their son James, aged 23.

At Guelph Messrs. Parkinson, Dowlan, Lyman and Armstrong were examined, and released on bail, after being bled in the pocket, as Mr. Peters says. Messrs. Benham, Butchard and Peters were taken to Hamilton jail by sleigh, a team being secured from Mr. Allan of the Guelph Mills, the driver, Robert Wharton, aged 25, later settled on Lot 2, Con. 1. The men were held in Hamilton jail for nearly six weeks before being released on bail; they suffered terribly by being left in the plank jail with no blankets or bed on about the coldest night in December. Next morning they were given three loaves of bread and told that no more food would be provided that day. Mr. Peters says that some prisoners were released to make room for the men from Eramosa, and in their haste to get away, they left their nest of straw, their prayer book and all the live stock except what was on their persons.

The seven men were charged, among other things, "That not having the fear of God in their hearts, but being moved and induced by the instigation of the Devil, they did traitorously compass, imagine and intend to bring and put our said Lady the Queen to death, and that they did, as false traitors, endeavour to induce and persuade, with force and arms, other subjects to levy war against our Sovereign Lady the Queen, that they did meet on the 8th day of December, 1837, in the Township of Eramosa, District of Gore, and with other false traitors, did conspire, consult and agree among themselves, unlawfully and wickedly, to fulfil and bring to effect their said traitorous compassings, imaginings and intentions."

The men were put on trial on March 8th, 1838, the Grand Jury of 18 men (Mr. Peters says, all thoroughbred tories)) found a true bill against the seven men from Eramosa, who were now again in jail, and they were given 10 days in which to prepare their defence. They subscribed $10.00 each toward the $70.00 necessary to hire a lawyer.

Public feeling ran high at home, in Fergus and Guelph, and among Government officials, and was strongly against them. The prosecuting attorneys were using every endeavour to have them hung for treason, the Government was determined to suppress with a ruthless hand any attempt at sympathy with the Mackenzie rebellion. James Peters had lost his position as Clerk, he was in jail when the annual Township meeting was held in January, and Sam Fear was appointed in his place for 1838, and Sam Bells for 1839. The Solicitor-General himself (afterwards Judge Draper)

appeared for the Crown, and tried all his tact and talent with the witnesses to secure a conviction. There were 80 Petit Jurors summoned, 57 Tories and 23 Reformers. It appeared that the men from Eramosa were doomed.

Mr. Peters relates what he terms a miserable attempt to send them all to be tried by a higher tribunal than that summoned to meet in Hamilton. The Government had stored 50 kegs of gunpowder in the cells, which were all plank and timber. The night before the trial some fiend set fire under the cell door and before morning the building was filling with smoke. James Benham was the first man to raise the alarm, and all the prisoners made noise enough for the jailor and turnkey to hear. These two men took axes and with the help of one of the guards, Wm. Kennedy, afterwards of Guelph, chopped off the planks between the fire and the gunpowder. The feelings of the prisoners as they heard the sound of the axes, and wondered whether they were to meet death by fire or explosion can hardly be described. Excepting Wm. Kennedy, none of the dasterdly villains who had been set to guard the jail would lend a hand to extinguish the fire. Writing 29 years after, Mr. Peters says that no notice was taken of this wanton act, and no effort was made by the authorities to discover the perpetrators.

From the time the court opened till 9 at night, the prisoners were made to stand. The 3 Crown witnesses were William Campbell of Eramosa, Walter King, later of Guelph, and Robert Grindell of Lot 13, Con. 5, Eramosa. The Crown failed to get anything out of these witnesses on which to secure a conviction and the defence counsel asked that the case go to the jury without hearing the eight witnesses for the defence. The prosecution would not consent to this, hoping by cross-examination to bring out some damaging evidence from defence witnesses. After examining three of them, the prosecution rested their case, and the judge charged the jury, dwelling on the enormity of the crime of treason, but telling them that if doubt existed, the prisoners were entitled to the benefit. After a retirement of eight minutes the jury brought in a verdict of "Not Guilty", and one of the most stirring chapters in the history of the Township of Eramosa was ended.

James Peters was one of the founders of Speedside Congregational Church; he was a total abstainer, a most unusual stand for a man to take in those days when whiskey was the regular beverage at the many bees the settlers held in clearing land and erecting buildings. When the prisoners were released, they secured 2 gallons of good whiskey, and James admits that with the other jolly fellows he did take a pull at "Old Jeroboam", but 29 years later he states that he had only tasted it twice since. I am in agreement with James Peters that the best policy with regard to whiskey is to leave it alone. My last drink was on a wet and cold night in France in 1917 when things were not going too good, so I have a certain amount of sympathy for James, and hope he will be excused for that wee drappie after such a narrow escape from death by hanging, blasting, fire and smoke combined.

James Peters was again Clerk of the township from 1840 to 1843, by which time public feeling was practically all on the side of the arrested

men. Between the arrests in December and the trial in March, many night raids had been made from Guelph on the settlers in Eramosa, and arms and money for fines collected in the name of the Crown in suppressing the rebellion. Fourteen sleighloads of people reported to the police in Guelph in one day; most of them gave bonds for their good behaviour; some had to pay $4.00; some who had less money got past with $1.00 or even 50c. One man was so mad that he knocked the Judge down; then got off by paying $1.00. Mr. Peters jocularly remarks that this was the beginning of the cash system in Guelph. Quite a lot of money was collected in this way, and the annoyance and arrogance of the procedure were so great that popular support was veering from the Government to the so-called rebels, and it is said that one more raid after the acquittal would have resulted in bloodshed and a rebellion in earnest.

Looking at the episode from the evidence available after 99 years, it appears that the seven men were innocent; but that the Government had reasonable grounds for the supposition that they were rebels. Mackenzie had rebelled; the Yonge Street affair was more or less common knowledge; the Government had called on all loyal citizens to help stamp out the rebellion; but in the confusion, mail and newspapers were not getting to Guelph, which was the Post Office for the Eramosa settlers at the time. It is not to be wondered at that regular despatches of letters or papers would be delayed in reaching Guelph in such troublous times; the only mail route from Toronto would be via Hamilton. There was a road from Guelph to Toronto known as the York Road, leaving Guelph by the road now known as York Road to the townline of Eramosa, then South one lot to what is now called the Old York Trail, wandering through Concessions 1, 2 and 3, and South two lots to the Wellington and Halton boundary, thence through Crewson's Corners and Belinafad to York Township and Southeast to Toronto. There may have been an alternate road through Campbellville and Burlington, but neither of these would be a mail route from Toronto to Guelph at that time.

The settlers in Eramosa, not having very definite word of what was going on in the Province, not getting the call of the Government to assist in capturing the real rebels, and being uneasy as to the actual state of affairs, held a meeting in the Central School House, to find out the condition of affairs in the Province. The Central School House had for some time been used for township meetings; it was situated on Lot 12, Con. 3, near where the Stone Church now stands. James Peters, the Township Clerk, was appointed secretary, and was requested to draw up a resolution expressive of the decision of the settlers; the resolution was passed as follows: "That we return home, and mind our own business." In the face of the demand of the Government that the settlers assist in quelling the rebellion, which demand the settlers claim had not reached them, the resolution "That we return home and mind our own business" might be taken as a refusal. It is clear that information had reached the government that a nest of rebels in Eramosa had held a meeting and passed the resolution mentioned; hence the arrests.

Their case was different, however, from that of William How, the first settler in Hillsburg, in the Township of Erin, who was arrested about

the same time. He was born in Kent, England, and like thousands of other emigrants, was willing to take a chance in a new country in order to escape the aristocratic form of government so irritating to a democratic nature. Like others, he too found the aristocracy of Toronto to be no better than that of London, and readily became a convert to the ideas of William Lyon Mackenzie; he was a reader and contributor to Mackenzie's paper "The Colonial Advocate." Sixteen well armed loyalists from Toronto surrounded his home one day and made him prisoner; he refused to walk, but when his captors proceeded to impress the horse of his neighbour, Mr. Rolf, he consented to travel with his guards on foot to Toronto. When they finished with him there, he was minus 500 acres of land on which he had performed settlement duties.

Mr. Peters says that all of the victims from Eramosa remained good Grits for the rest of their lives, although some had previously supported the Tories, he further asserts that if any of them ever again voted Tory they deserved to be tarred and feathered. Had he been spared till now, he would have seen several of their descendents become prominent Conservatives, and a survey of the Township registrations of Births, Marriages and Deaths for 50 years shows that at least 75% of the present landowners are connected by descent or marriage with the families of the principals in the 1837 affair. The Eramosa affair seems to have been due to a misunderstanding on both sides; some of the settlers deny any idea of rebellion, they were all comparatively young men, adventurous and typically British in their bulldog determination to preserve their ideals of liberty at all costs. Apparently they did not realise that their resolution could easily be taken to mean that they would not support the authority of the Crown as represented by constitutional government.

Ninety nine years later sees another tragedy being enacted in the Township, many of these descendents are being dispossessed of their farms, the year 1936 saw nearly 1,000 acres revert on default to the mortgagees; in most cases the mortgagee was the Crown, represented by The Agricultural Development Board or The Commissioner for Agricultural Loans. 1937 will probably see an equal amount of land change ownership by default, and since The Farmer's Creditors Arrangement Act came into force two years ago, nearly 2,000 acres has been saved, at least temporarily, from a similar fate.

The end is not in sight; probably half of the farmers are in good financial circumstances, pay their taxes on time, and can carry on under present circumstances indefinitely. One quarter find the going hard, they are a bit late with taxes and interest, but by hard work and thrift, have managed to get along so far. The remaining 25% have interest and taxes piling up, and the end is inevitable disaster in some cases. Too great a value has been placed on farm property, and loans and obligations are consequently in excess of producing value. I expect to raise a storm when I say that farm land in Eramosa or similar townships is of no value; by that I mean that the average farm is worth no more than the cost of improvements—buildings, wells, fences, etc., or that it will not produce more than the value of the labour spent on it, plus interest and taxes on improvements.

The fictitious values placed on farms by owners are not there when it comes to meeting obligations, or when a sale is forced for cash on an open market. The settler got his land for little or nothing, he and his descendents put on about $5,000.00 worth of improvements on the average 100 acres, then added about $2,000.00 as profit, and figured they had a farm worth $7,000.00. On this basis the properties have been purchased, or divided among families, and loans have been made, with the result that owners are trying to meet obligations on values which only exist on paper or in the minds of interested parties, whereas the only watered stock on a farm should be live stock. A similar situation arose in Britain shortly after the war. That Conservative country endeavoured to relieve the distress among farmers and farm workers by a method probably too Radical for this country. They derated all land, urban and rural alike, and levied taxes on improvements, income and business only. Their continued progress vouches for the wisdom of the move. Is it possible that something similar must be done here?

In 1910 there were about 6 names on the Eramosa Voters' List that appeared to be of Continental European origin, in 1950 there are upwards of 75.

## Crime in the Township

Suicides have been fairly common in Eramosa, probably the earliest one is commemorated by McCormick's Cemetery. Mr. McCormick donated land near his farm gate for use as a cemetery, he shot himself and was the first person to be buried in the cemetery. The lot, as mentioned elsewhere, held the first school in the Barrie Hill district and the first Presbyterian and Congregational meetings. Murder has raised its ugly head but seldom, the only officially recorded instance I can find is that of Mrs. Willoughby who lived on the West ½ of Lot 6, Con. 6, S.S. No. 8, which probably sheltered the largest number of municipal officials, budding teachers, lawyers, doctors and ministers, also has the doubtful distinction of the only recorded murder. The Clerk of the Township, John A. Davidson of Eden Mills, acting as Division Registrar, thus records her death: "Murdered by her husband". Mr. Willoughby was found insane, was committed to Hamilton Asylum and died there. Both were buried in St. John's Cemetery, Rockwood, now occupied by the Bowling Club. Before vital statistics were recorded in Eramosa, a girl in her teens was found murdered in the bush near Barrie Hill on Lot 21, Con. 1. She lived on the lot with her parents and a hired man also living there was not seen again after the murder. Several years ago, a local doctor said that he believed two babies of unmarried parents had been murdered in Rockwood, but he could not secure enough evidence to warrant a charge and medical evidence would be the only reasonable justification for a charge. The man involved was sentenced to a long term on another charge at about the same time. Later, a charge of murder was laid in another case but dropped when the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death." A resolution of an early Eramosa Council offered a cash reward to anyone "producing evidence leading to the conviction of the man who raped Mrs. – (giving the woman's name). Some months later there is a record of the reward being paid.

Probably the most interesting civil action connected with municipal affairs was brought by a township treasurer who was a farmer and who had purchased some fine steers for winter feeding. At the nomination meeting, one candidate stated that the steers had been paid for with township money under the control of the Treasurer. An action for libel or defamation of character was started and ended in Guelph when the candidate paid damages and issued a public apology. Serious assessment appeals were about 1880 when The Grand Trunk Railway won an appeal against the township and in 1933 when the township won in the case of an appeal by Gypsum Lime & Alabastine Ltd. A most interesting school section case was also settled in 1933. In 1872 the East ½ of Lot 8, Con. 5 (assessed to D. D. Gray in 1933) was placed in S.S. No. 8 but for many years the taxes had been levied at the rate for No. 9 and had been paid to No. 9. Mr. Gray and the Trustees for S.S. No. 8 appealed to the Council for correction. The appeal was allowed. The Trustees of No. 9 supported by Dr. McNab the Inspector then applied to the Council to have the 100 acres in question transferred to No. 9. Council declined to amend the 1872 bylaw. The Trustees of No. 9 then appealed to the County Council under The Public School Act but the 1872 bylaw was again confirmed.

Since writing the above notes on the murder of a girl near Barrie Hill the following newspaper clipping has come to hand. the details do not quite agree but evidently it is the same case.

## MURDER BIG NEWS YEARS AGO

Crime news had as much fascination for Western Ontario residents of 100 years ago as for present day readers. And the Guelph Herald in an issue dated 1848 gave considerable prominence to the murder of a 10-year old girl, Margaret Wood. Under a headline reading "Barberous Murder" the editor took time to comment that "the annals of crime narrate few more daring, cold-blooded and savage murders than the one it this week becomes our unpleasant task to record. Margaret Wood, daughter of Mr. Joseph Wood Jr. Farmer 1st Concession of Eramosa, about 10 miles distant from Guelph, a girl 10 years and 6 months had been for some time past in the almost daily habit of passing from her fathers house to the residence of her grandfather Mr. Robert Scott, Farmer, Township of Nichol, for the humane purpose of visiting an uncle who was sick. The girl left for her grandfathers home on the previous Saturday. Half the distance between the two homes, some two miles, was through a wood. When she did not return by dark her father began a search. He was unsuccessful and neighbours were called in. The mother, accompanied by a William Armstrong, found the girl [illegible] the editor continue [illegible] and to their unspeakable horror they discovered the murdered and brutally violated girl about ¾ of a mile from her fathers house, the neck cut across behind, and that so deeply as to have penetrated the spinal cord the upper section of the spine being nearly dislocated". Apparently the child never reached her grandfathers and the time of the murder was set at 2 p.m. "A dark stain as from a hand-grasp across the thorax would seem to indicate that the ruffian had seized her by the throat with one hand, while with the other he had endeavoured to sever the head from behind. the child's thumbs were both cut, apparently from the impotent attempt to

defend her neck from the butchering knife. To add to the horrors of this appalling tragedy, it is the decided opinion of the medical gentlemen at the post-mortem examination that the violation was committed after death. The body of the unfortunate girl having been removed to the house of her parents, an express was forwarded to Guelph on the Sunday morning, and the coroner, (Dr Orton), accompanied by Dr Clarke, immediately proceeded to the spot and at noon held an inquest, when after the examination of several witnesses nothing having been elicited tending to bring home the perpetration of the crimes to any particular individual, the inquest was adjourned."

A vagrant was picked up for questioning the following week, examined by the coroner and put in jail pending the result of the adjourned inquest. No record of the conviction of anyone for the crime appears in available papers. The Herald editor concludes: "We believe the public may rest assured that the constituted authorities of the district will use every exertion to bring to condign punishment the perpetrator of this diabolical act. We almost shudder to think that this is now the third murder that has taken place in this thinly peopled county within the last 18 months. God grant that we may never have to record another."

## Money for Sale

Auction Sales advertisements for many years carried the note "12 months cr on approved joint notes." Hastings Gilfillan had an auction sale when he retired from the farm. He was born in Quebec in 1827, his father Joseph, coming from Scotland. Hastings Gilfillan, living on Lot 6, Con. 2, was one of the few moneyed men in the township. Supposedly the richest man was his neighbour, Hugh Kean, Lot 5, Con. 2. The 2nd richest man was supposed to be James W. Benham who made a regular business of loaning money on notes. At Hastings Gilfillan's sale, money was tied in bundles of nine $10.00 bills and sold to the highest bidder on 12 months credit. The object was to get $100.00 for $90.00 in 12 months, thus earning just over 11% per annum. It is said that the average sales were around $100.00 on approved joint notes. As late as 1910, it was common practice for a young farmer, in his first year or two, to purchase a cow or two on 12 months credit with his father, a friend or relative, as backer, then sell the cow for cash for current expenses, trusting to a new crop with which to meet payment of the note.

## Justices of the Peace

From the very earliest days Justices of the Peace were appointed with wide powers. Probably the first of these was Joseph Parkinson, J.P. Born in Preston, Lancs., England, he married Ellen Hodkinson and settled on 1100 acres in Eramosa in 1824. Many of the earlier municipal documents bear his signature as J.P. he died in 1851. Other Justices of the Peace were: Robert Royce, James Black, Henry Strange, Col. John Mutrie, Thomas Cox, Sr., Roy A. Brooks, Michael P. Barry, Joseph J. Aldous, William Harris, William J. Peal, John Lister, Thomas Gilfillan and Frank Dey. In 1934 the Liberal Government under Premier Mitchell Hepburn, found

that after prolonged Conservative administration, most of the Justices of the Peace were Conservative, they withdrew or revoked all commissions in the Province and appointed a few Commissioners for Affidavits. No new Justices of the Peace have since been appointed for Eramosa, but John A. Little, William F. Grieve and Norman S. Marshall were appointed Commissioners for Affidavits. All rural Reeves, Deputy-Reeves and Clerks were authorized to act as Commissioners for Affidavits and a few Justices of the Peace were appointed in larger centres. With a Reeve, Deputy-Reeve, Clerk and 2 Commissioners the service regarding affidavits is fairly good in the township, but there is not the same coverage as in 1934 with 7 Justices of the Peace, a Reeve and Clerk. Revision of the Justices of the Peace Act was probably necessary in order to curtail the powers granted. All the commissions contained instructions to Sheriffs and Police to obey the Justice of the Peace, an order that was hardly practicable in this century. It is noted that just as this record goes to press, the Globe and Mail of Sept. 29th, 1950, announces that Gordon R. Dryden of Eramosa Township has been called to the bar. Gordon Dryden is a descendent of Eramosa's first Justice of the Peace, Joseph Parkinson and a descendent of Thomas Dryden who came to Eramosa about 1828.

**A few citizens or descendents of citizens of Eramosa who have become prominent elsewhere—**

Adsett, Rev. Chas., M.A., B.D., Windsor, Ont.
Argo, James. Reeve of Fergus, Ont.
Brydon, Rev. Douglas A., B.S.A., Ripley, Ont.
Cripps, Alger, Town Councillor, Georgetown, Ont.
Day, Fred, M.A., Author of "Junior Commercial Arithmetic", Hamilton, Ont.
Dickieson, William A., Warden of Wellington County.
Douglas, Miss Dorothy, Missionary, Presbyterian Church in Canada.
Dryden, Dr. George, Illinois.
Dryden, Dr. James R.
Duff, Sir Lyman P., Chief Justice of Canada.
Farries, Dr. Adam, New York.
Farries, Dr. Robert, New York.
Farries, Rev. Dr. Francis W.
Forsyth, K. M., Air Force hero in World War II.
Freure, R. Bruce, Councillor, Guelph Township.
Geiger, Rev. Gordon R., B.A., B.D., Binbrook, Ont.
Gordon, Rev. Douglas R., B.A., Dunnville, Ont.
Graham, Rev. William, M.A., B.D., Powell River, B.C.
Gray, David Donald. Warden of Wellington County.
Harris, C. Gordon, M.A., B.D., Manitowaning, Ont.
Hindley, Miss Alice, Reg. N., Ontario Welfare Department.
Hindley, Rev. John.
Hindley, Rev. George, U.S.A.
Hill, James J., U.S.A., Railway Magnate.
Hosking, Dr. Fred J., Hillsdale, Ont.
Hosking, Capt. Henry A., M.P. for South Wellington.
Jolliffe, Rev. C. J. P., Missionary to China.

Jolliffe, E B , Q.C., M.P.P , C.C.F Opposition Leader.
Jolliffe, Rev. Dr R O , Missionary to China.
McAree, J V., Globe and Mail Columnist.
McFadzen, D E , Alderman, Guelph City Council.
McLean, Sims Warden of Wellington County.
Mutrie, Co . John M.P.P Warden of Wellington County.
Oakes, W J O Councillor Acton Ont
Oakes, Dr Frank G., V S , Mayor of Acton
Peters, Drs George A Watson John B and Joseph H.
Rea, John Father of the Council, Warden of Wellington County.
Soper, J Dewey Dominion Wild Life Officer, Edmonton, Alta.
Stokey, Sybil, (Hoskyng) Missionary to Angola.
Talbot, Peter, M P for Strathcona, Alta
Thatcher, Ross, C C F M P for Moose Jaw, Sask.
Thring, James Air Force Hero World War II
Tovell Rev Amos Disciple Minister, Guelph.
Watson, G. Muiton, B A , B Paed , Principal, G. R Allan School, Hamilton
Weatherston, Marion, (McNabb), Asst Principal, Guelph Bd. of Education
Wetherald, Ethelwyn Noted Poetess.
Whiteside, H B , M P. for Swift Current, Sask.

Rockwood, Ont.

Dr A E. Byerly, Guelph.
Dear Sir:

In connection with your mention of a chair factory and a tannery on part of the East ½ of Lot 6, Concession 3, Tp of Eramosa, Mr John Pasmore, of Rockwood, a son of the late Robert Pasmore, the first postmaster at Rockwood, remembers hearing his father speak of a chair factory on this property.

In 1852 Fred McDonald, a tanner, aged 32, was assessed for 3 acres on this lot, together with a horse at 15 Pounds, and at cow at 3 Pounds. Joseph Murphy paid the taxes on the lot in 1851 with 220 acres adjoining, and in 1853 Fenton McGraw was owner, and was assessed for 4 head of cattle at 16 Pounds Neither McDonald or McGraw appear on the roll for 1854, and the land was assessed as non-resident.

The letter you mention as having been written by William Oliphant on April 20th, 1853, was at the instance of the Township Council. At a meeting on April 18th, at the Centre Inn, Lazarus Parkinson, Town reeve, was called away, and James Loghrin was chairman, the other councillors present were Donald Black, James Mitchell and Robert Royce Messrs Black and Mitchell sponsored the following resolution which was passed "Ordered that the sum of 25 Pounds be appropriated by this Council to meet the Government grant for the establishment of Public School Libraries throughout the Province, that the Clerk be directed to communicate with the chief Superintendent of Schools on the subject, and that so soon as the said sum shall be required, the Reeve be authorized to draw on the Treasurer for the amount and pay it to the party duly authorized to receive the same."

Mr Oliphant was appointed Clerk at the first council meeting for the Township of Eramosa, held at Worsfold's Tavern, in January, 1850. Joseph Parkinson, J P , was appointed treasurer, but died in 1851, when Mr Oliphant assumed both offices, resigning at the January meeting in 1856 in consequence of serious and prolonged illness and a resolution appreciative of his urbanity, faithfulness and efficiency, was passed on motion of Messrs. McKerlie and Royce At the same meeting James Mitchell was appointed to the vacant offices, he had been a member of the council since its inception in 1850, and Town reeve in 1855, he presided as Town reeve at this meeting until his successor, Lazarus Parkinson, was elected by Council.

The first members of council for the Township were Thomas Armstrong, Adam L Argo James Mitchell, James Parkinson and Donald Black. Thos Armstrong was elected by council to fill the office of Town reeve, and to represent the Township on the Waterloo County Council, the District Councillors for the previous year had been Donald Black and Joseph Parkinson, but Thos Armstrong had been Eramosa's first representative when the Wellington District Council was established in 1842, only the names of Armstrong, Black and Parkinson occur as representatives from this date until Township Councils were established in 1850.

Only 6 pleasure carriages were assessed in the Township in 1850, one belonged to Ellen Parkinson and was assessed at 15 Pounds, she was also assessed for 1 horse and a cow Charles Head was assessed for 100 acres, a pleasure carriage at 13 Pounds, 1 horse and 3 head of neat stock, Robert Ramsey had 100 acres, a pleasure carriage at 9 Pounds, 3 horses and 11 cattle, Henry Strange owned 550 acres, his carriage was worth 13 Pounds, he had 3 horses and 6 cows, Henry Gray's pleasure carriage was assessed at 12 Pounds, he had 2 horses Wm Armstrong had 183 acres and the highest assessed carriage in the Township at 18 Pounds, he also owned 4 horses and 11 head of cattle The only man with more than four horses was Edwin Black, who was assessed for five, Alex Burns owned 200 acres, but had increased it to 500 in 1855

## The Annals of the Town of Guelph, 1877

By C. ACTON BURROWS

In 1835 Captain Poore had formed a company of volunteer militia as a Guelph unit and as a result of uneasiness concerning the activities of William Lyon Mackenzie On the day of the engagement at Montgomery's, December 4th, 1837, they left Guelph, 62 strong, leaving Col Lamprey and Col Young in charge of a portion of the company to protect Guelph. It was known that there were a considerable number of Mackenzie's sympathisers in Eramosa and other districts in the neighbourhood, and that if opportunity offered, they might make some active demonstration and possibly take possession of the town, so that there was a very natural feeling of alarm here.

1856, the 12th of July, kept with much parade in many parts of the Province, had always passed off very quietly in Guelph, sometimes no notice whatever being taken of it This year, however, formed an exception to

the rule for a party of about two dozen Orangemen having been to a picnic at Rockwood, were, on their return by train, attacked with stones and clubs, and a serious disturbance was the result. The Orangemen took refuge in a saloon and defended themselves as best they could by blocking up the doors and firing occasional shots from pistols. The Mayor and other magistrates were quickly on the spot and succeeded for a time in quelling the disturbance, but it being feared that the fight would be renewed and with more vigor after dark, the Mayor and Reeve swore in a number of special constables and read the Riot Act in various places. It was well they did for in a short time the battle was renewed. A man named Kelly raised a loud shout and in other ways incited the mob to disturbance when he was ordered to be arrested, which was at once accomplished. A dozen constables soon overpowered him and succeeded in conveying him to the gateway leading to the gaol, when they were assailed with stones and clubs and the crowd numbering many times their own number, they were soon overpowered and the prisoner was rescued, but not before the Mayor and several constables had been struck with stones. The Mayor forthwith sent for Captain Kingsmill of the Rifle corps and presented him with a requisition for his services, and in half an hour a body of from 40 to 50 armed men took up a position on the ground previously occupied by the mob, which had in the interval, perceptably diminished. Sufficient time having elapsed, the streets were cleared as far as possible, and a keen look out kept for rioters. At 10 o'clock the Reeve and Deputy Reeve, accompanied by a section of the Rifles, visited the various taverns, clearing them of all strangers, and ordering that no more drink should be served that night. About midnight a disturbance took place at the rear of Moran's saloon, and some half dozen constables proceeding thither, found Kelly, the rescued man, with others, and again effected his arrest. Again he was rescued, and but for the timely arrival of a portion of the Rifles, he would probably have escaped. He and four others who had assisted in the rescue were taken to the gaol. The next night (Sunday) a keen look out was kept, and also on Monday night, when a large number of men were collected on the Catholic Church premises, and about 40 Orangemen from Rockwood were lying in readiness in various parts of the town, but in consequence of the vigilance of the constables and the military, no further disturbance took place. The rioters were brought before the magistrates, and most of them fined, but Kelly was sent for trial at the Assizes.

1867. The scheme of Canadian Confederation having been brought to a successful issue, and the plan of government consequently greatly changed, the elections which ensued excited far more interest in all parts of the country than had been the case for many years. In the County of Wellington additional interest was given to the elections on account of a change in the representation which had taken place in accordance with a Bill introduced by the Government and passed in July 1866 for the redistribution of seats, one of the provisions of which was that the County of Wellington should be divided into three ridings instead of two as heretofore. The following were the divisions with the population of each township. North Riding, Amaranth 1196, Arthur 3597, Luther, 689, Minto 2341, Maryborough, 3134, Peel 5008, Total 15,965. South Rid-

ing—Guelph Township, 3088, Guelph Town, 3076, Puslinch, 4701, Total 12,865 Centre Riding Elora 1043 Eramosa, 3604, Erin, 4948, Fergus, 1117, Garafraxa, 4866 Nichol, 2395 Pilkington, 2397 Total 20,370 For the Legislative Assembly A D Ferrier T S Armstrong and James Loughrin, were nominated The vote stood Ferrier, 1083 Armstrong, 1025 Loughrin, 338 (Note) This appears to be the first attempt of a resident of Eramosa to seek a seat in parliament Ferrier was a university graduate from Edinburgh aged 54 living in Fergus Armstrong was a Speedside farmer aged 47 Loughrin was also a Speedside farmer aged 59 All three had been in County Council or District Council the Speedside and Barrie Hill districts were very active in municipal affairs for many years With the Eramosa population at 3604, it seems probable that the North westerly half of the township was in a position to claim its full share or more, of municipal government In 1949, with the population down to 2300 and with Rockwood Eden Mills and Everton housing many more than in 1867 the decrease of population in the Northern half is very noticeable Of the 1490 municipal electors in 1949, only 400 live in the Northwestern half of the township At the moment, two members of the council and three members of the School Board reside in the Northern half but in a general vote, election from that part would appear to be difficult unless a ward system is adopted

To get back to the 1867 election Why should the neighbours Loughrin and Armstrong split their total vote to let Ferrier in? It appears that the Loughrins were Tories and Presbyterians, while the Armstrongs were Liberals and Congregationalists Probably both were very independent it is said that one Armstrong walked into a church up one aisle and finding all the pew doors closed walked across the front and down the other aisle again finding all the doors closed he walked out, never to re-enter

Histories of the Loughrin and Armstrong families show at least three marriages between them so apparently love laughed at the political differences or perhaps the old song is true "There's a little bit of bad in every good little girl" I cannot see why Armstrong and Loughrin from Eramosa split 1363 votes to allow Ferrier of Fergus to be elected with 1083 Perhaps someone who reads this may have an explanation

Back to Acton Burrows On Sunday, Oct 18th, 1867, Dr Parker of Guelph M P for Centre Wellington having received a professional call to visit a sick child at Rockwood intending to remain all night, but finding that his services could be of no avail, at about 10 o'clock he started to walk to Guelph, taking the road in order as he said, to avoid the danger of falling through a bridge on the track near Rockwood, where two men had already been killed Finding the road muddy he altered his determination, and took the railway walking cautiously as the night was very dark Before he was aware of it however he had arrived at the fatal bridge which was spanned only by beams to support the rails and plunged through to the road beneath, where he lay, unable to move till the next morning When he was discovered, medical aid was at once procured, and Dr Howitt and Col Higinbotham brought him to Guelph, when it was found that he had sustained a fracture of the thigh and serious

internal injuries. He lingered, mostly in an unconscious state, until the following Saturday, when he died. He was succeeded in January, 1868, by James Ross, of Cumnock, who vacated the office of Crown Lands Agent at $1000 to $1200 per annum in order to become M.P

Periodically, Guelph must be a scary place in which to live, with Eramosa rebels ready to pounce on it in 1838, and Rockwood Orangemen looking for battle, infesting the place in 1856 The Railway Company, rather than Eramosa, is blamed for the death of Dr Parker, M.P , in 1867, but it is duly recorded that a sick Rockwood child was indirectly responsible.

Eramosa still persists in plaguing Guelph or sections thereof in 1949. In the Dominion election, Henry A. Hosking, an Eramosa boy, carried off the honours, while another Rockwood boy, Chas. F Leaman, ran as C.C.F. candidate. Ed. Jolliffe, of Rockwood, the Provincial C.C.F. leader, is also considered a pest by many of Guelph's leading citizens.

Central Section of a map of Upper Canada published by Longmen & Co
Paternoster Row London in 1821

# INDEX


PAGE

Abbott ... 124-138
Academy ... 114
Acton Free Press ... 70
Adsett ... 5, 36, 76, 77, 81
Aldous ... 36, 73
Allan ... 78
Alton ... 4
Anderson ... 118
Anglican ... 64
Argo ... 7, 41, 29
Arkell ... 66
Armour ... 92
Armstrong ... 7, 8, 30, 58, 62, 86, 92, 93
Ascension ... 70
Ash ... 6
Atton ... 80
Awrey ... 78, 79
Ayles ... 96

Balmsville ... 75
Barden ... 131
Barker ... 93
Barrie ... 56, 57, 75, 85, 86, 87, 89, 91
Barrie Hill ... 85
Barry ... 48, 74
Bates ... 68
Baugh ... 70, 72
Bayne ... 57, 61
Beattie ... 9
Beaumont ... 12
Beck ... 27
Bell ... 85
Benham ... 4, 8, 9, 32, 66, 73, 82 92, 94, 139
Berlis ... 62
Bernard ... 70, 73
Bethel ... 137
Bethesda ... 132
Bethune ... 70
Bichan ... 94
Bingham ... 61, 91
Black ... 5, 7, 8, 9, 19, 26, 32, 33, 36, 37, 48, 51, 89, 90, 92, 141
Blue Goose ... 132
Bolton ... 94

PAGE

Booth ... 76
Bowie ... 75
Brand ... 83
Brillinger ... 47, 73
Brooks ... 64, 73, 75, 92
Brotherstown ... 96, 150
Brown ... 93
Browne ... 71
Brydon ... 87
Buchanan ... 88
Bull ... 70
Burlingham ... 47
Burns ... 26, 32, 33, 35, 57, 58
Burt ... 179
Butchart ... 6, 86, 129
Byerly ... 6, 86, 96

Callaghan ... 48, 75
Cameron ... 58
Carman ... 79
Carr ... 118
Carter ... 8
Carton ... 59
Casani ... 77
Caspell ... 83
Caven ... 87
Christie ... 86
Citizens ... 189
Clarke ... 68, 93, 99
Cleaver ... 90
Cleghorn ... 5
Clow ... 80
Cole ... 79
Comfort ... 36
Cook ... 82, 84, 94
Cooke ... 71, 73
Cooney ... 53, 54
Cooper ... 82
Copeland ... 137
Coram ... 55
Couling ... 125
Coulson ... 77
Councils ... 11, 15
Cox ... 48, 76, 78, 81
Craig ... 83
Cranston ... 58
Crewson's ... 131

PAGE

Crime ... 186
Cripps ... 34, 119
Croft ... 58, 63, 64
Cromaboo ... 119
Cummins ... 8
Currey ... 80

Dale ... 85, 87, 88, 92, 94
Damper ... 121
Davison ... 29, 66, 67, 76
Day ... 4, 35, 36, 60, 61, 62, 68
Deeds ... 43
Denny ... 92
Denroche ... 69
Dickieson ... 8, 63
Dilts ... 62, 84
Dixon ... 71
Dodds ... 58, 89
Doherty ... 74
Dolmage ... 55
Donald ... 76
Donaldson ... 59, 84
Downey ... 28
Dredge ... 58
Drinkwater ... 6, 68, 100, 138
Drumhill ... 66, 138
Dryden ... 30, 31, 56, 58, 86
Duff ... 51, 93, 94, 95
Duffield ... 5, 8, 28, 86
Dunbar ... 33, 34, 37, 55, 73
Duncan ... 80
Durker ... 82
Dyer ... 62

Eddy ... 84
Eden Mills ... 130
Elections ... 42
Elliott ... 60, 61, 69, 94
Entwistle ... 77
Eramosa Mutual ... 133
Evans ... 84
Everton ... 120
Everts ... 41, 125, 127

Fair ... 79, 83
Farmer's Shed ... 109
Farnham Plains ... 72
Farr ... 77
Farries ... 33, 37

PAGE

Farrish ... 34
Finegan ... 74
Firstbrook ... 28
Fitzsimmons ... 77
Fletcher ... 8, 149
Foote ... 81
Fordyce ... 7
Forester ... 155
Fountain ... 126
Fraser ... 65, 66
Freure ... 94
Fuller ... 70

Gardiner ... 87
Garstang ... 96
Geiger ... 84
Gerrie ... 93
Gibb ... 73, 177
Gibbons ... 48, 74
Gibson ... 76
Gilbertson ... 63
Gleason ... 74
Godden ... 71
Gordier ... 61
Gordon ... 27, 58, 60, 61, 63
Gosselin ... 62
Gracey ... 94
Graham ... 37, 58, 60, 143
Grandy ... 78
Grant 75, 76, 77, 79, 80, 135, 144
Grasley ... 78
Gray ... 4, 8, 9, 10, 58, 63, 64, 77, 79, 129
Grierson ... 31
Grieve ... 8
Griffin ... 179
Grindell ... 127
Guild ... 96

Hall ... 58, 70
Hamilton ... 8, 71, 73, 77
Harper ... 94
Harris ... 5, 26, 32, 33, 34, 35, 55, 59, 60, 65, 66, 84, 96, 97
Harwood ... 63
Head ... 121
Heffernan ... 96
Hepher ... 12
Hewat ... 66

PAGE

Hill . 24, 26, 33, 36, 53, 56, 149
Hindley ..... 5, 36, 76, 79, 94
Hodgkinson ..... 84
Hopkins ..... 84
Hortop ..... 125, 127
Hosking ..... 37, 59, 60, 61, 177
Hunt ..... 94, 96
Hutchinson ..... 4
Hyndman ..... 79

Industry ..... 110
Ingles ..... 25
Inglis ..... 51

Jessop ..... 76, 77, 78, 79
Jestin ..... 125
Johnston .... 52, 55, 62, 88, 91, 97
Jolliffe ..... 23, 48, 59, 61, 153
Justices ..... 188

Kay ..... 87
Kaye ..... 79
Kean ..... 28
Kehoe ..... 48, 74
Kellerman ..... 72
Kelley ..... 94
Kenny ..... 95
Kerr ..... 178
Kilgour ..... 29, 154
Kilpatrick ..... 87
Kingsbury ..... 36
Kinnee ..... 53
Kitching ..... 58, 60, 96
Knight ..... 61
Knowles ..... 70, 73, 75, 96
Kribs ..... 28, 89, 93

Laight ..... 29
Laing ..... 137
Lawrence ..... 96
Lawson ..... 51, 60, 84
Lee ..... 69, 70
Leslie .... 4, 9, 73, 76, 77, 81, 135
Lillie ..... 93
Linfoot ..... 73
Lister ..... 70, 71, 73, 96
Little 58, 59, 60, 61, 87, 94, 96
Livingstone ..... 71
Lloyd ..... 96
Loghrn ..... 8, 86
Loree ..... 32, 82, 85, 124
Lorne Mills ..... 99
Lovells ..... 99
Lundy ..... 96
Lushes ..... 6, 36, 66, 68, 89, 92
Luxton ..... 73
Lyall ..... 94
Lynch ..... 79

Mack ..... 77
Mann ..... 87, 179
Margaret ..... 93
Marsh ..... 87
Marshall ..... 87, 90, 91, 94
Martin ..... 62, 63, 94
Massey ..... 68
Masters ..... 93
Mathews ..... 77
Maunsell ..... 72
Meadows ..... 96
Miller ..... 32, 77
Millican ..... 75, 76, 77
Milne ..... 87
Milroy ..... 62
Mimosa ..... 75
Mitchell ..... 7, 8, 63, 90, 128
Moir ..... 87
Money for Sale ..... 188
Montagu ..... 1
Morris ..... 79
Munro ..... 58
Murphy ..... 41, 78
Mutrie ..... 4, 8, 9, 10, 62, 63

McAree ..... 66, 117
McArthur ..... 5, 75, 96
McCannell ..... 5, 36
McCormick ..... 89, 90, 92
McCracken ..... 62
McCullough ..... 23
McCutcheon ..... 90
McDonald 41, 74, 75, 77
McDougall ..... 36
McGladdery ..... 94
McGloshan ..... 92
McGregor ..... 77
McIntosh ..... 76, 77
McIvor ..... 63

PAGE

McKay ... 87
McKenzie ... 69, 80
McKerlie ... 8
McKinnon ... 73
McLaren ... 76, 77
McLean ... 4, 8, 36, 63
McLeod ... 76, 124
McMillan ... 59, 60
McNab ... 4
McNabb ... 4, 8, 9, 33, 34, 35, 36, 53, 56, 58, 60 to 64, 89
McPherson ... 58
McQueen ... 8, 58
McTaggart ... 95
McVittie ... 4
McWilliams ... 62, 87, 96

Nelson ... 35
Nichol ... 77, 85
Nicholson ... 79
Nicklin ... 179
Noble ... 83
Norrish ... 6, 9, 15
North ... 99, 151

Oakes ... 9, 47, 68, 83, 91
Oliphant ... 7, 90, 155
Oliver ... 61, 62, 86
O'Meara ... 69
Orangemen ... 66, 192
Osler ... 70
Ostrander ... 29, 61
Oustic ... 133, 138
Overland ... 78

Palmer ... 64, 66, 67, 69
Parker ... 193
Parkhouse ... 129
Parkinson ... 7, 8, 9, 10, 31
Pasmore ... 55, 67, 99
Patterson ... 61
Peal ... 35, 59, 60
Pearen ... 48, 58, 60, 61, 63, 96
Peart ... 96
Peavoy ... 90
Pedley ... 93
Peters ... 9, 51, 86, 92, 156
Pettit ... 82
Petty ... 76, 135

PAGE

Phin ... 28, 29
Pigott ... 70, 71
Pimlett ... 66
Plains ... 67
Plant ... 94
Plester ... 88
Porter ... 32
Powers ... 91
Presbyterian Church ... 62
Price ... 73
Pulker ... 73

Quirk ... 74

Ramsey ... 6, 58, 90, 173
Rawson ... 84, 92
Rea 8, 9, 10, 75, 76, 77, 78, 81, 86
Rebels ... 181
Reed ... 79
Rees ... 62
Reeve ... 57, 74
Reid ... 79
Richardson ... 73, 96
Robertson ... 26, 87, 94
Robinson ... 45, 46, 86, 93
Rockwood ... 96, 107, 113
Rockwood Community Club 109
Rockwood Fire Brigade ... 108
Rockwood Show ... 107
Rockwood Town Hall ... 108
Roman Catholic Church ... 74
Root ... 52, 61
Rowan ... 76, 77, 81
Royce ... 10, 35, 90, 96, 177
Rutherford ... 4, 8
Ryckman ... 7, 127

Salman ... 94
Sampson ... 94
Sanderson ... 79, 83
Saunders ... 5, 16
Sawyer ... 71, 72, 73
Scarrow ... 82
Schmidt ... 94
Schneider ... 96
School Area ... 36
School, Little Red ... 36
Scott ... 30, 58, 63, 75, 83, 86, 88, 90

PAGE

Scouts ..... 130
Sharp ..... 69, 83
Shaw ..... 77, 94
Shepperson ..... 79
Sherwood ..... 7
Shiloh ..... 134
Shultis ..... 34, 37
Sim ..... 63
Simpson ..... 62
Sinnott ..... 74
Small ..... 75, 79
Smith ..... 56, 63, 72, 74, 79, 80, 82, 83
Smythe ..... 87
Sockett ..... 66, 73
Soper ..... 37, 56, 122
Spence ..... 76
Squires ..... 41
Steele ..... 70, 71
Stephen ..... 70
Stephenson ..... 87, 94
Stewart ..... 58, 66, 68, 73, 121, 138
Stinson ..... 96
Stokes ..... 79
Stone Church ..... 81
Storey ..... 8
Stout ..... 82, 98
Stovel ..... 73
Strahan ..... 58
Strange ..... 6, 41, 56, 65, 66, 67, 96, 97
Stringfellow ..... 68
Summerell ..... 76
Sunley ..... 8, 175
Sunter ..... 161
Swallow ..... 69
Swanston ..... 5, 31, 32, 36, 58, 62, 63, 64

Talbot ..... 8, 19
Tannery ..... 190
Taylor ..... 47, 59, 61, 84, 94
Thatcher ..... 96
Thom ..... 56
Thomas ..... 10
Thring ..... 89

PAGE

Thurston ..... 82
Thurtell ..... 67
Tookey ..... 75, 77, 79
Torrance ..... 58, 75, 76, 87, 97
Tovell ..... 6
Transportation ..... 134

United Church ..... 59
Unsworth ..... 29, 93

Vicars ..... 68

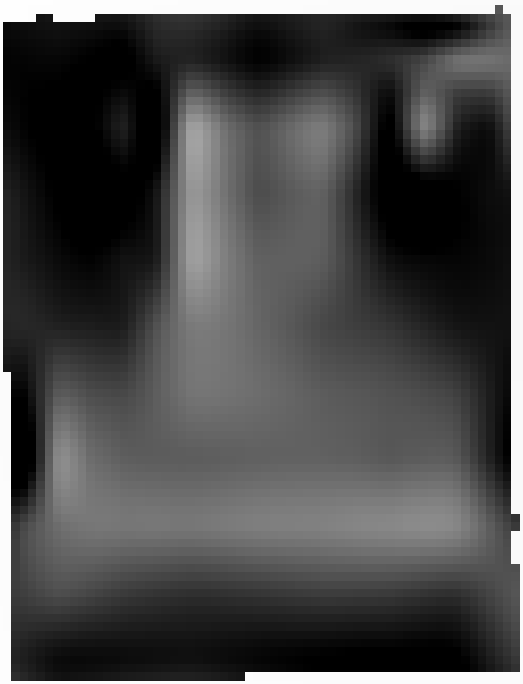
Waite ..... 79
Walberg ..... 36
Walker ..... 75, 82
Waller ..... 73, 177
Wanless ..... 63, 64
Wansbrough ..... 132, 176
Ward ..... 60, 61, 62, 84
Ware ..... 73
Warmington ..... 94
Warner ..... 54, 74
Waters ..... 8
Watson ..... 57, 59, 75
Watts ..... 82
Weir ..... 29
Wells ..... 12
Wesleyan Church ..... 53
Westmacott ..... 71
Wetherald ..... 26, 34, 36, 65, 117
Wharton ..... 10
Wheeler ..... 76, 77
Whitworth ..... 79
Wilkie ..... 87
Wilkinson ..... 72
Williams ..... 93
Williamson ..... 63, 75, 77
Wilson ..... 62, 63, 71, 77
Wishart ..... 63, 64, 76
Woltz ..... 83
Wood ..... 4, 8, 9, 25, 53, 66, 68, 75, 86, 87, 88, 100
Worsfals ..... 66

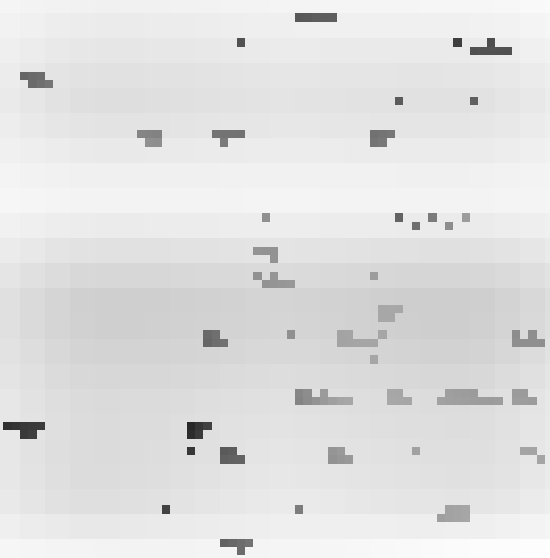
Young ..... 63, 73

# Here and There in Eramosa

by

Frank Day





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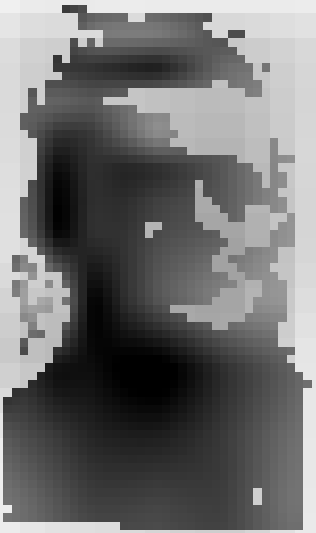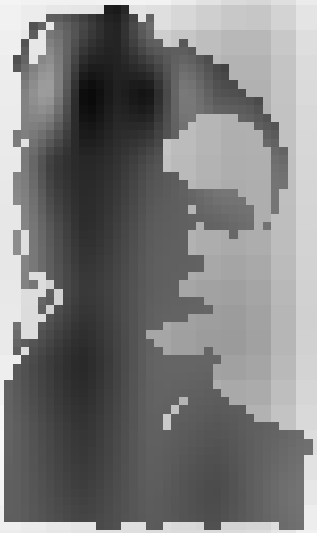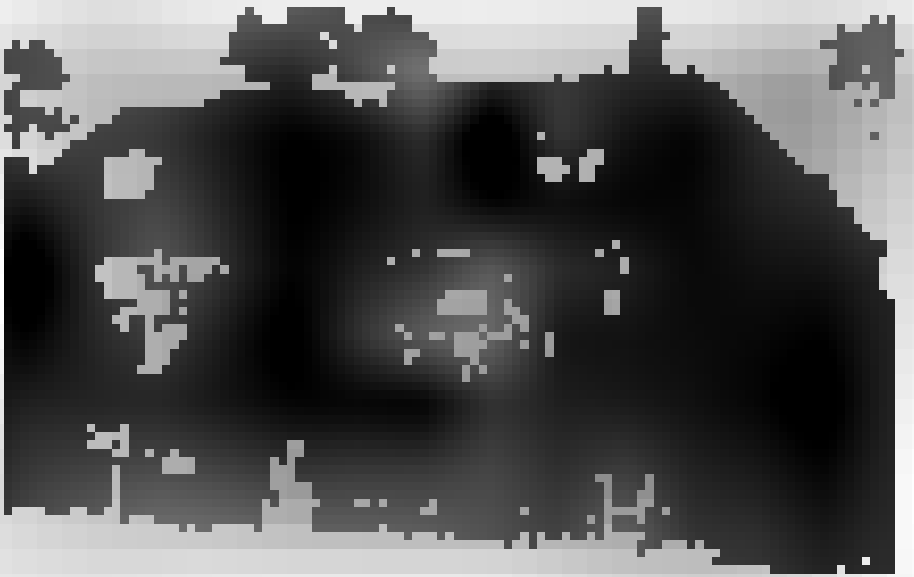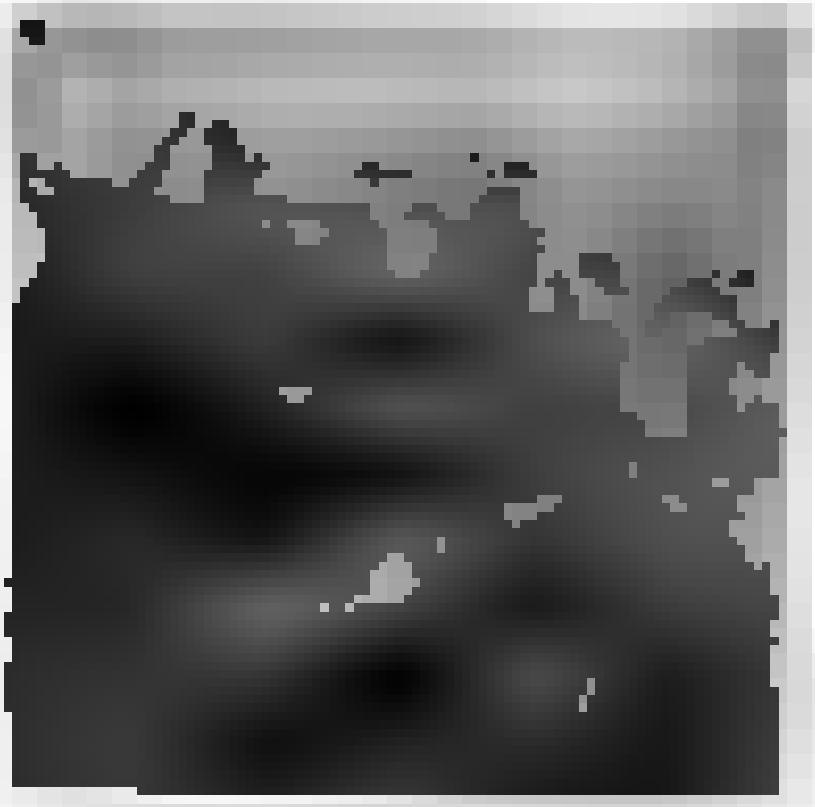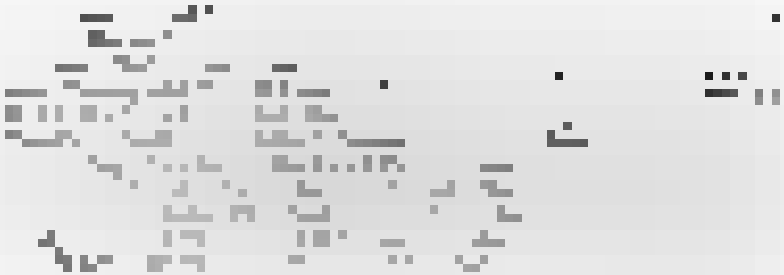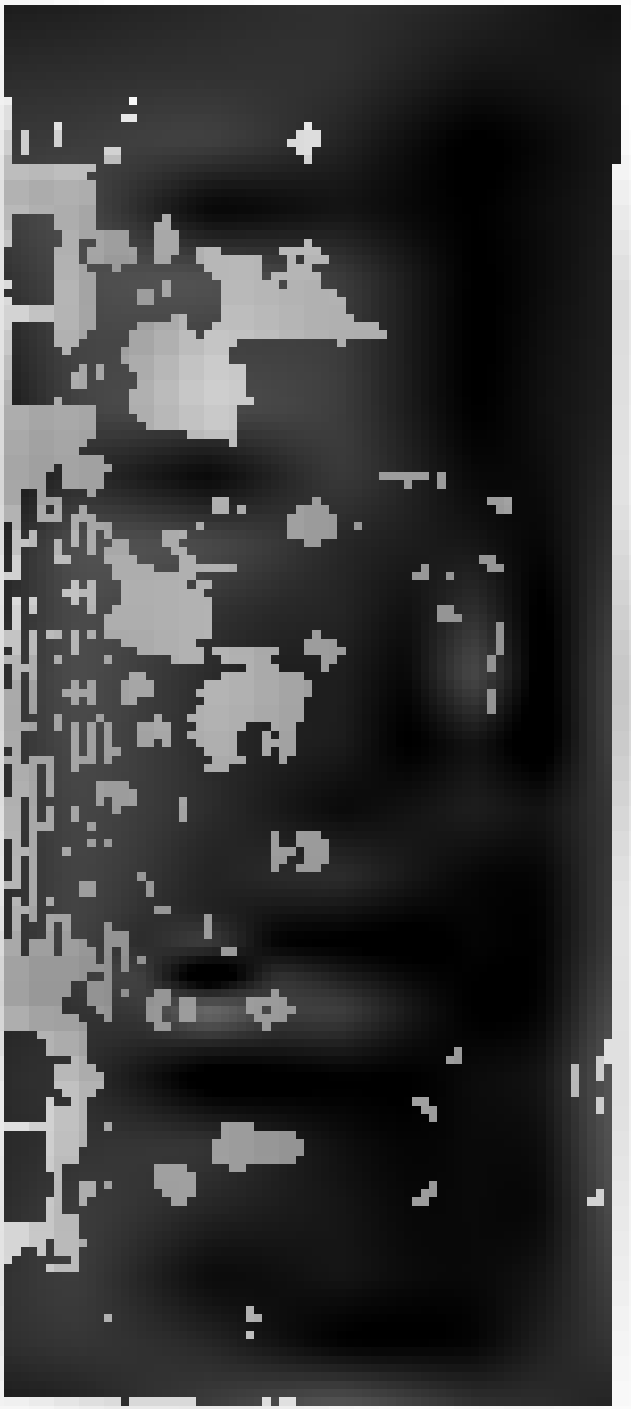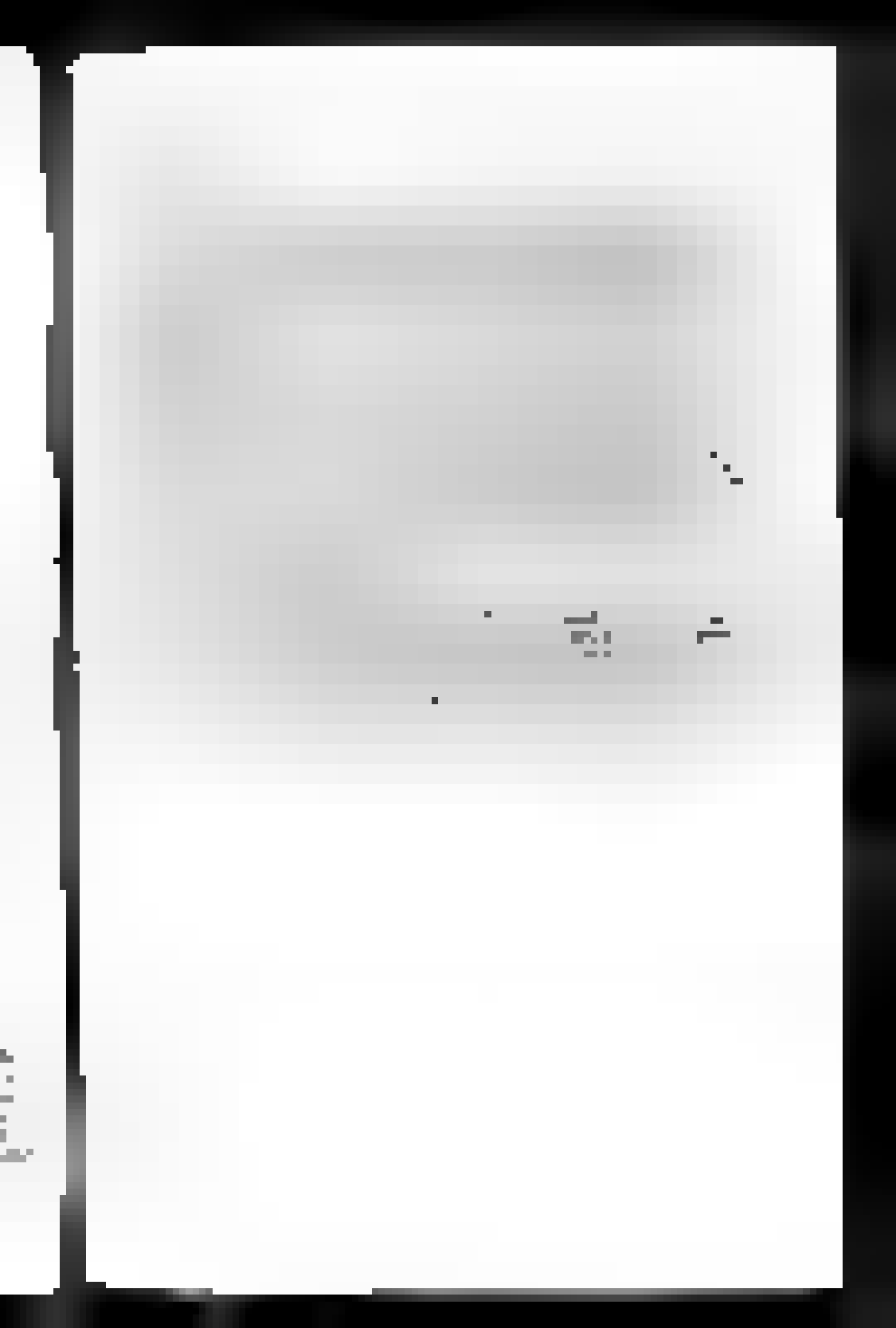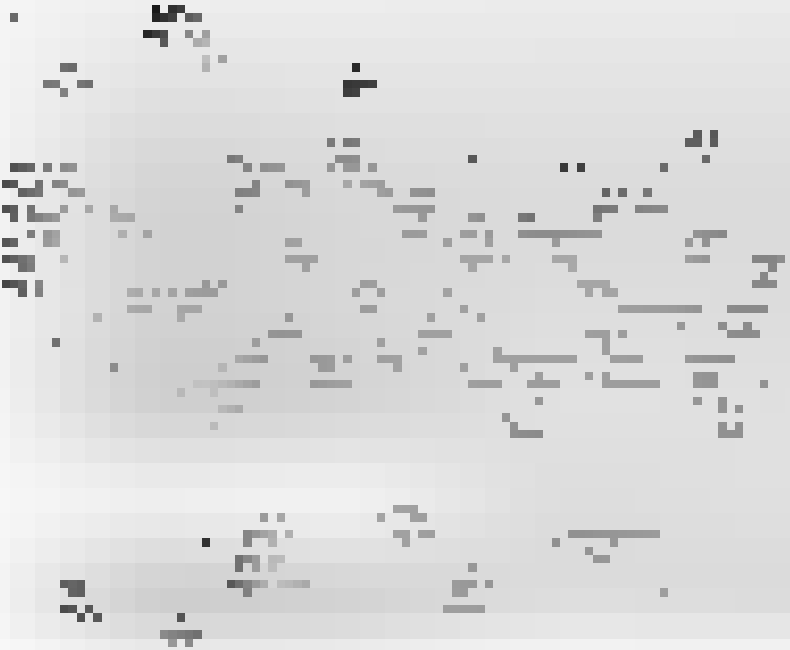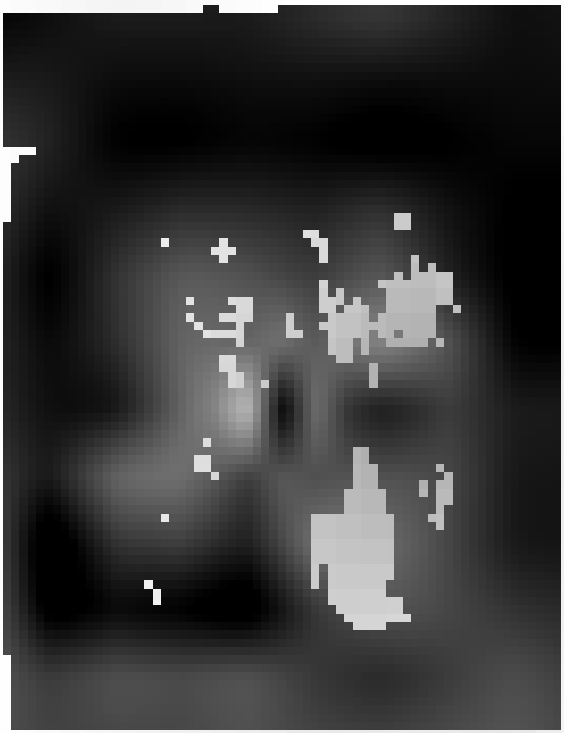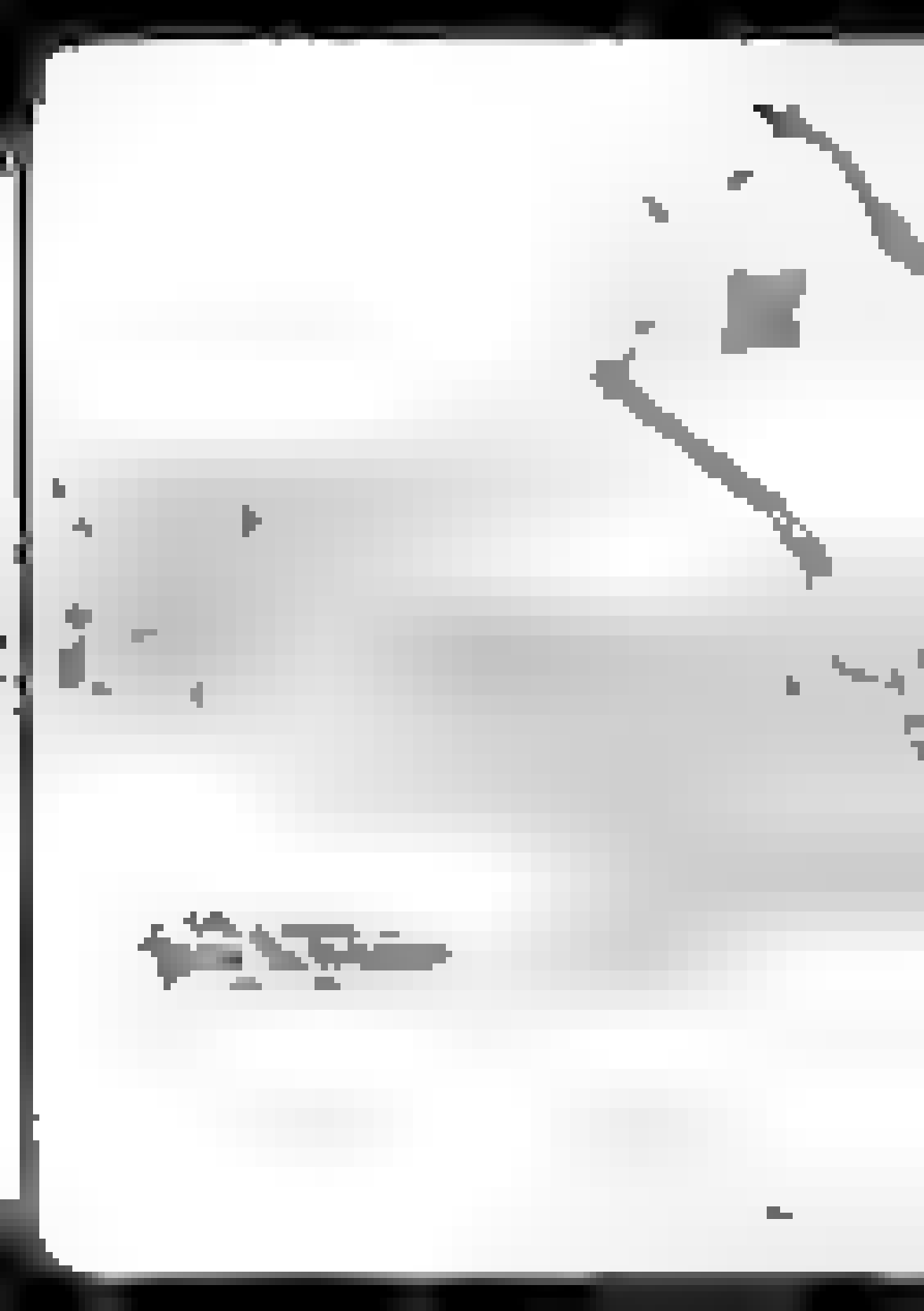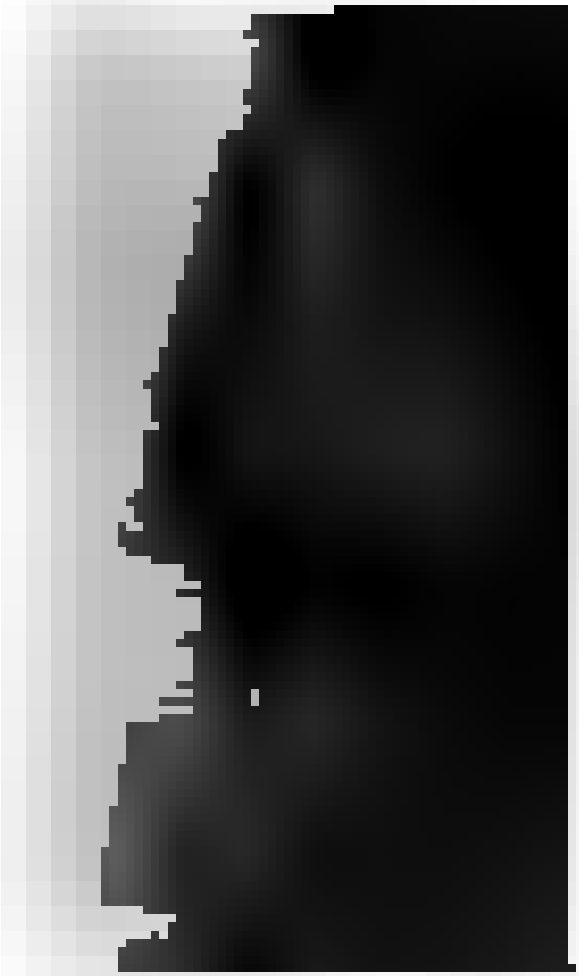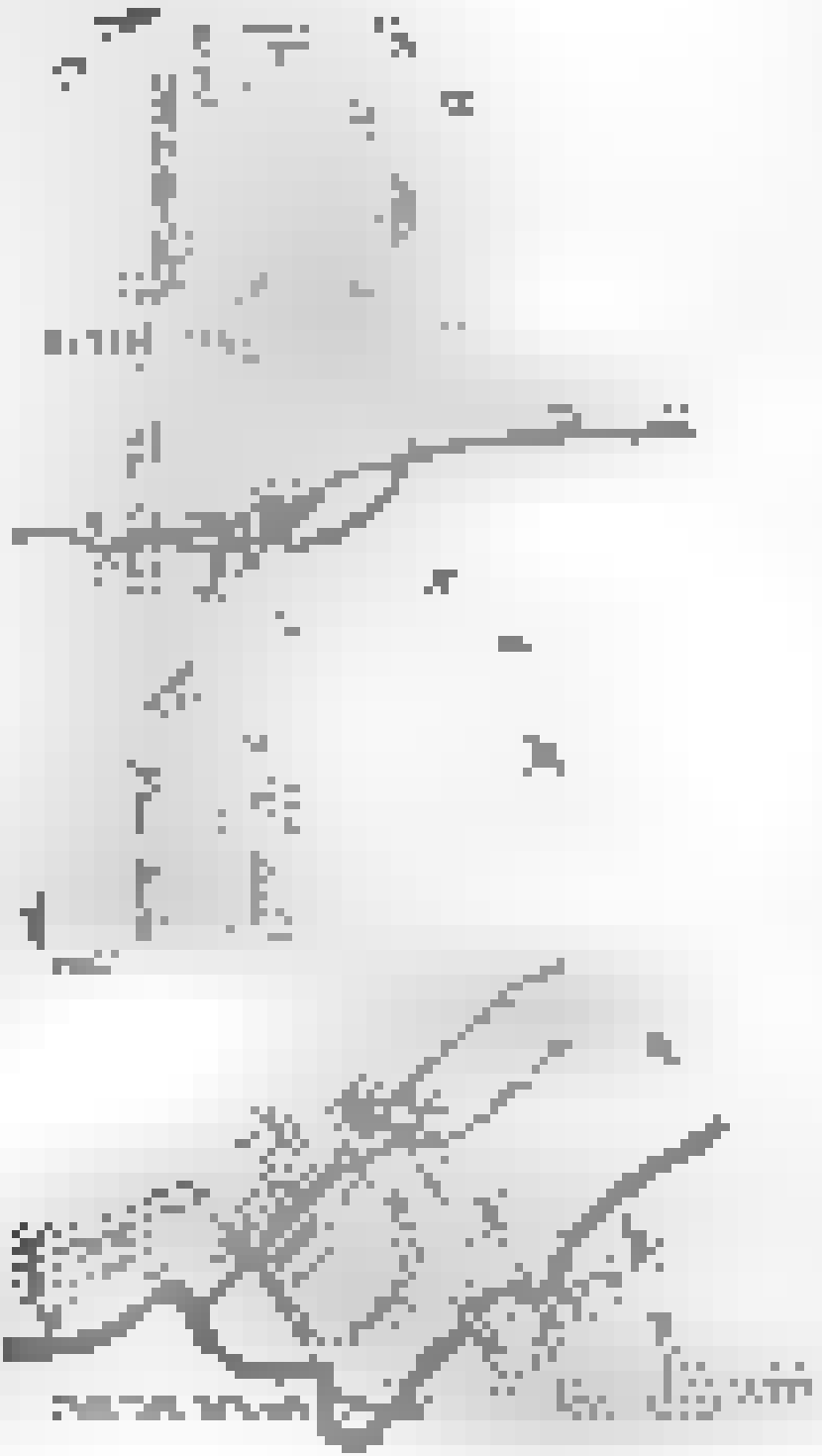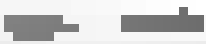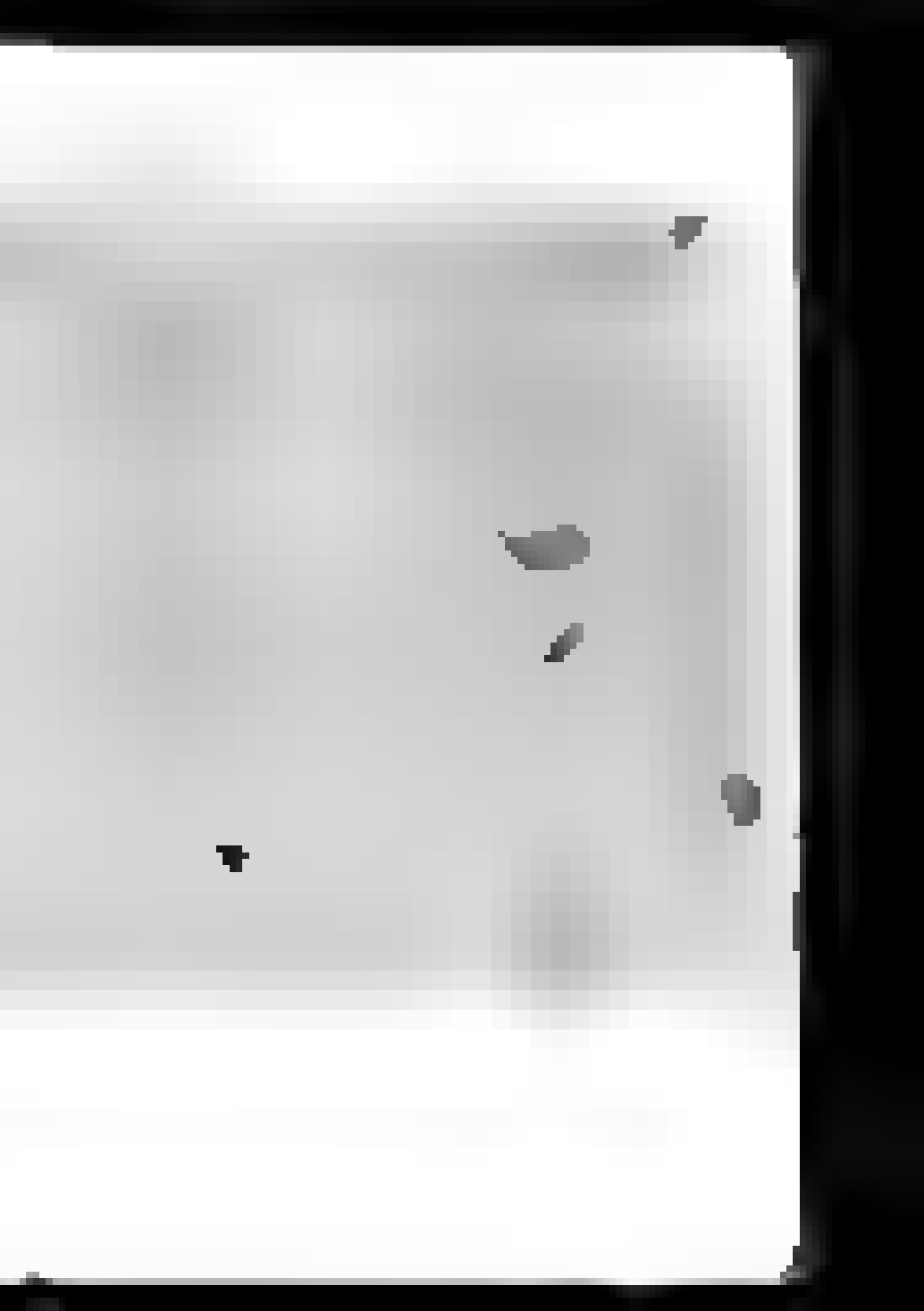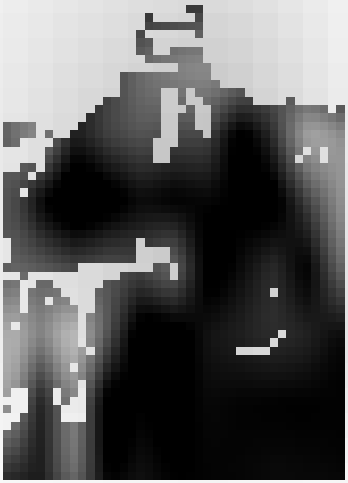
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